

anything is possible

OREGON Small Schools INITIATIVE

Renaissance Arts Academy ra²

3905 SE 91st Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97266 (503) 916 5240

<http://www.marshall.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/10054>

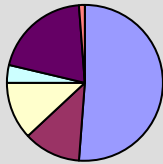
Principal: Fred Locke

Renaissance Arts Academy, ra², is a small college preparatory, arts-focused high school on the Marshall campus. Committed to Expeditionary Learning (EL) principles, ra² believes in student-centered learning that challenges students to think critically and ponder relevant issues. The central goal is for each ra² student to graduate well-educated, fully prepared for college, a career or serious continued study in visual performing arts.

The following data reflects 2008-2009

Student Population

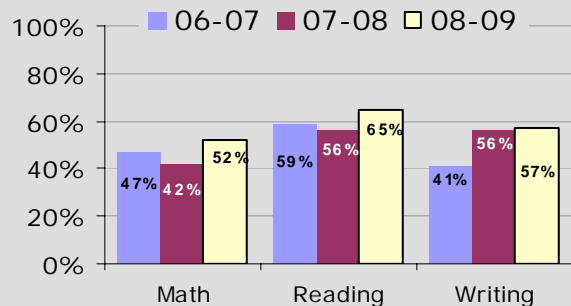
Total Enrollment	311
Low-income students	78.5%
English language learners	7.4%



European American - 51%
Asian/Pacific Islander - 12%
African American - 12%
American Indian - 4%
Latino, Hispanic - 20%
Other - 1%

Student Achievement

10th grade students meeting or exceeding state benchmarks
(based on ODE OAKS test scores)



Sources: Oregon Department of Education and ra²

A first for Oregon

In September 2004, Marshall High School, in outer Southeast Portland, became one of the first large high schools in Oregon to convert into autonomous, small schools. Marshall's conversion was in direct response to challenges it faced: only 25 percent of students met 10th grade benchmarks in math and reading, and the school's poor reputation in the community resulted in persistent decreases in enrollment. At Marshall, close to 60 percent of students are from low-income families and almost 40 percent are students of color. When planning the three schools, staff focused on creating a plan to turn student achievement around. Marshall's three autonomous schools offer a rigorous, personalized college preparatory curriculum each with a unique educational approach. Of the three original academies, BizTech Academy and Renaissance Arts Academy continue to partner with E3 to continue improving their work.

E3

A project of E3: Employers for Education Excellence with the generous support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust