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Houston Performing Arts School District Awarded \$13.8 Million MSAP Grant
Rhodes School for the Performing Arts Announces New STEAM Program

Houston, TX – Today, Rhodes School for the Performing Arts (RSPA) has announced it has received a \$13.8 million grant through the U.S. Department of Education’s Magnet Schools Assistance Program, most commonly known as MSAP.

MSAP provides grants to eligible public elementary or secondary magnet schools or education centers offering a unique curriculum capable of attracting substantial numbers of students of different social, economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds.

As the only MSAP recipient awarded in Texas this year, RSPA is set to revitalize its Fine Arts program into a STEAM program - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEM plus Arts) - to promote diversity and increase choices in public education programs.

“I believe there’s art in science,” says Superintendent Ashley Miller. “With this grant, we can introduce new and exciting perspectives to our scholars and educators while building connections between STEM and the world of performing arts.”

The 5-year grant, totaling \$13,862,587, will support RSPA’s ability to help all its students meet more challenging standards through professional development and other activities that will enable RSPA to operate at a high-performance level after funding ends.

The MSAP grant will also allow school partnerships to reinforce the importance of STEM education through training workshops, showcases, camps, STEAM learning experiences, mentoring, job shadow opportunities, and more for RSPA’s teachers, staff, and scholars.

Several community organizations, ranging from Young Audiences of Houston to Baylor College of Medicine Center for Educational Outreach, are pleased to extend their services in support of RSPA’s MSAP grant project, *Convergence: When Art & STEM Meet* - a research-based, whole-school STEAM model intended to reduce racial isolation and improve student achievement.

Participating schools included in the MSAP grant cohort are RSPA Northshore and RSPA Humble.

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Rhodes School for the Performing Arts is a Fine Arts Magnet School of Distinction. Established in 2007 by Michelle Bonton, RSPA serves over 500 students in the greater Houston area. RSPA boasts six Fine Art disciplines and is home to several Fine Art ensembles such as choir, visual arts, and theatre arts. Rhodes School for the Performing Arts is dedicated to providing its students with an exceptional education and rigorous Fine Arts curriculum. To learn more about RSPA, visit RhodesSchool.org.