

THE IMPORTANCE OF A FINE ARTS EDUCATION

The arts are integral to every person's daily life. Our personal, social, economic, and cultural environments are shaped by the arts at every turn – from the design of the child's breakfast place mat, to the songs on the radio, to the family's night-time television drama, to the teenager's Saturday dance, to the enduring influences of the classics.

Art benefits students because it cultivates the whole child, gradually building many kinds of literacy while developing intuition, reasoning, imagination, and dexterity into unique forms of expression and communication. Arts education also helps students by allowing them to think and perceive in a variety of ways.

The goal of art is to connect person and experience directly, to build the bridge between verbal and non-verbal, between logical and emotional.

There is ample evidence that the arts help students develop attitudes, characteristics, and intellectual skills required to participate effectively in today's society and economy. The arts teach self-discipline, reinforce self-esteem, and foster the thinking skills and creativity so valued in the workplace.

The arts teach the importance of teamwork and cooperation. They demonstrate the direct connection between study, hard work, and high levels of achievement.

What Students Should Know and Be Able to Do in the Arts

- Students should be able to communicate at a basic level in the area of art. This includes knowledge and skills in the use of the basic vocabularies, materials, tools, techniques, and intellectual methods.
- Students should be able to communicate proficiently in an art form, including the ability to defend and solve artistic problems with insights, reason, and technical proficiency.
- Students should be able to develop and present basic analyses of works from historical and cultural perspectives.
- Students should be able to recognize forms of exemplary work from a variety of cultures and historical periods.
- Students should be able to relate to various types of knowledge and skills within and across the arts. This includes mixing and matching competencies and understandings in history, culture and analysis in the arts.

The fine art curriculum was designed to emphasize the importance of and the aesthetic value of art. This curriculum was designed around the standards of each fine art discipline. Standards identify what students should know and be able to do. Benchmarks help define the measurements that will be used to determine if a student has met the standard. Finally, indicators are the specific skills or competencies students will have when they complete a course.

Sources of References:

National Standards of Art Education