

Education in the arts benefits students by:

Cultivating the whole child by building multiple literacies (e.g., developing intuition, reasoning, imagination and dexterity) into unique forms of expression and communication initiating students into ways of perceiving and thinking that will help them see and grasp life in new and further ways.

- Teaching the analysis of nonverbal communication and the making of informed judgments
- Enhancing understanding of themselves and others
- Acquiring the tools and knowledge to take charge of their own learning, assessing where they have been, where they are and where they want to go
- Promoting the processes of thinking, creating and evaluating; developing attributes of self-discipline and personal responsibility; reinforcing the joy of learning and self-esteem; and fostering the thinking skills and creativity valued in the workplace
- Giving them knowledge of potential career pathways or involvement in the arts
- Encouraging experimentation with and utilization of current technology
- Fostering a lifelong appreciation for and support of the arts
- Learning artistic modes of analyzing different situations, which brings an array of expressive, analytical and developmental tools to everyday experiences
- Learning the importance of teamwork and cooperation
- Making decisions in situations where there are no standard answers
- Recognizing the essential role the arts have in sustaining the viability of cultures

Whenever possible and within the limits and needs of individual districts, students need direct contact with professional artists and arts organizations that help develop and deliver arts learning and address the state arts standards. Access to learning in the arts is enhanced through the development of partnerships between schools, national, state and local resources (e.g., museums, symphonies, artists in residence, traveling exhibits, theatre companies, arts centers, dance companies). Success will be realized when all students have equal access to all the arts.

Integration of the Arts

Learning is an integrative process. Integration means identifying concepts shared among two or more discipline or content areas and teaching to the natural connections between them. All subject matter disciplines are comprised of concepts. A concept is an idea which applies to multiple content areas but which may represent the idea in different ways. In a balanced curriculum, opportunities occur almost daily for students to use what is learned in one discipline to clarify or enhance an idea, concept or skill in another. As learners work across the disciplines, there are many opportunities to discover relationships that lead to the process of understanding ideas and concepts. This way of learning provides intellectual stimulation involving thinking, feeling, and doing behaviors that enable students to be more flexible and inventive in their approaches to problem-

solving processes. All teachers, regardless of the grade levels or subject matter that they teach, are encouraged to find links between these areas and the arts.

Through the study of the arts we:

- Learn basic forms of communication
- Learn about the interaction among historical events, the arts and cultures of people, past and present
- Learn to perceive subtleties and complexities and develop artistic judgment
- Learn to make assessments on the basis of standards and criteria
- Learn that problems have multiple solutions
- Sharpen cognitive capacities
- Increase perceptual abilities
- Find opportunities to describe, analyze, compare, interpret, infer, generalize and develop hypotheses
- Acquire multiple forms of literacy (cultural and aesthetic)

“There is one art that everyone should master and that is the art of reflection.”

-- Samuel Taylor Coleridge

