



IMPORTANCE OF ARTS EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The importance of arts education in the school curriculum is that it can begin to introduce students to another way of understanding themselves and the world, and different ways of expressing thoughts, experiences and feelings that are not easily expressed in everyday symbols and signs. A good arts education is built on and reflects recognition of the specific and unique way that the arts shape our thinking and our lives. "Parents need to be aware that children learn a lot more from graphic sources now than in the past," says Dr. Kerry Freedman, Head of Art and Design Education at Northern Illinois University. "Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it."



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The **Importance of Fine Arts Education. Education** in the **arts** is an integral part of the development of each human being. ... **Arts education** refers to **education** in the disciplines of music, dance, theatre and visual **arts**. Study in the **arts** is integral to our society

"Parents need to be aware that children learn a lot more from graphic sources now than in the past," says Dr. Kerry Freedman, Head of Art and Design Education at Northern Illinois University. "Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it." Knowledge about the visual arts, such as graphic symbolism, is especially important in helping kids become smart consumers and navigate a world filled with marketing logos.

Where have the arts in education gone? Over the past several years we've all seen the trend of schools cutting the arts from their curriculum. Music, art, theater—gone for so many.

There's no doubt that the arts are fun for kids. Diving into those finger paints and making a beautiful picture to hang on the fridge is awesome. Acting in a play is exhilarating. But the arts also help kids develop on many fundamental levels.

Some parents, teachers and students look down on arts education as something unimportant, especially when compared to academic subjects such as language, math and science.

However, the value of arts education should not be underestimated because it can actually provide several benefits for the students.

The Education Fund shared some of the benefits of arts education for students. Hopefully, this list can help everyone have a better appreciation and understanding of arts education.

1. Arts Education Improves School Performance

One of the biggest benefits of arts education for students is that it can actually improve their learning skills, school attendance, critical thinking skills and creativity.

2. Arts Education Can Improve A Child's Creativity, Imagination And Self-Esteem

Nothing can explore and develop students' creativity and imagination better than arts education. Not everyone likes science, language or math. Many students actually are more interested and skilled at the different forms of art. Being able to practice your passion, hobbies and interests can also develop your self-esteem.

3. Arts Education Is A Bridge Across Cultural Differences

One of the most important benefits of arts education for students is that it helps them appreciate and understand the different cultures and values of our very diverse society. "They become the shared link, the glue that shapes our understanding of how we see ourselves and each other," The Education Fund explains.

The following are findings reported in Champions of Change: The Impact of the Arts on Learning (Fiske, 1999) that should be noted by every parent, teacher, and administrator:

1. The arts reach students not normally reached, in ways and methods not normally used. (This leads to better student attendance and lower dropout rates.)
2. It changes the learning environment to one of discovery. (This often re-ignites the love of learning in students tired of just being fed facts.)
3. Students connect with each other better. (This often results in fewer fights, greater understanding of diversity, and greater peer support.)
4. The arts provide challenges to students of all levels. (Each student can find his/her own level from basic to gifted.)
5. Students learn to become sustained, self-directed learners. (The student does not just become an outlet for stored facts from direct instruction, but seeks to extend instruction to higher levels of proficiency.)

The study of the fine arts positively impacts the learning of students of lower socioeconomic status as much or more than those of a higher socioeconomic status.

Here are the top 10 ways that the arts help kids learn and grow:

- 1. Creativity.** --- This may seem like a no-brainer, but the arts allow kids to express themselves better than math or science. As the Washington Post says, In an arts program, your child will be asked to recite a monologue in 6 different ways, create a painting that represents a memory, or compose a new rhythm to enhance a piece of music.
- 2. Improved Academic Performance.** ---- The arts don't just develop a child's creativity—the skills they learn .
- 3. Motor Skills.** ---- This applies mostly to younger kids who do art or play an instrument. Simple things like holding a paintbrush and scribbling with a crayon are an important element to developing a child's fine motor skills. According to the National Institutes of Health, developmental milestones around age three should include drawing a circle and beginning to use safety scissors. Around age four, children may be able to draw a square and begin cutting straight lines with scissors.
- 4. Confidence.** ---- While mastering a subject certainly builds a student's confidence, there is something special about participating in the arts. Getting up on a stage and singing gives kids a chance to step outside their comfort zone. As they improve and see their own progress, their self-confidence will continue to grow.
- 5. Visual Learning.** ---- Especially for young kids, drawing, painting, and sculpting in art class help develop visual-spatial skills. Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it.
- 6. Decision Making.** ---- The arts strengthen problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- 7. Perseverance.** ---- I know from personal experience that the arts can be challenging.
- 8. Focus.** ---- As you persevere through painting or singing or learning a part in a play, focus is imperative. And certainly focus is vital for studying and learning in class as well as doing a job later in life.
- 9. Collaboration.**---- Many of the arts require kids to work together. They must share responsibility and compromise to achieve their common goal.
- 10. Accountability.** ---- Just like collaboration, kids in the arts learn that they are accountable for their contributions to the group

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