

K-12 ARTS EDUCATION – Research, Resources, and Messaging

Some notes collected for CONFAB, June 4, 2016

CORE MESSAGES

- The arts are a core academic subject.
- The arts help students develop critical skills, capacities, and habits that matter in school and in life.
- The arts help all kinds of learners gain knowledge and demonstrate understanding across all academic areas.
- The arts support student engagement, and they improve teacher engagement and overall school environment, too.

CORE ACADEMIC SUBJECT:

- The Arts are a required core academic subject, per both state and federal law.
- The Arts are defined in our state as Dance, Theatre, Music, and Visual Arts, with Media Arts to be added soon.
- High School graduation requirement in the Arts: currently 1 credit; changing to 2 credits for the class of 2019 and beyond.
- OSPI resources to support arts education at: <http://k12.wa.us/Arts/default.aspx>

WHAT DO STUDENTS LEARN IN THE ARTS?

- Arts Skills and Techniques
 - There are official learning requirements and assessments in the arts, just like all other core subjects
- General and Transferable Skills and Techniques – Habits of Mind, Ways of Doing, Seeing, and Learning
 - “21st Century Skills”: Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Critical Thinking - <http://www.p21.org/about-us/p21-framework>
 - “Habits of Mind” – things like observation, perseverance/grit, attention to detail - http://opd.mpls.k12.mn.us/uploads/T-ARTIST_HABITS_OF_MIND.jpg

THE ARTS SUPPORT ACADEMIC ACHEIVEMENT:

- The Arts help students learn in multiple modalities – visual, kinesthetic, etc.
- Different ways of knowing and showing
- The Arts can have an especially strong impact for students that are categorized at “at-risk” or in a lower-achievement group:
 - *The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth:*
<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Arts-At-Risk-Youth.pdf>
- The arts can help address the opportunity gap, leveling the playing field for all students
 - Arts Impact: <http://arts-impact.org/research-projects/arts-impact-dissemination-and-expansion/>

THE ARTS SUPPORT STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:

- Schools that have used the arts as part of school improvement efforts have seen disciplinary issues go down, absenteeism go down, and enrollment go up
- Teachers and the larger community are more engaged
- Turnaround Arts Initiative: <http://turnaroundarts.pcah.gov/impact/>

WHO INFLUENCES ARTS EDUCATION POLICY AND PRACTICE?

- School Board
- District Superintendent, District Administrators
- Principals, Teachers
- Parent/Teacher Associations
- Local Funders
- Arts Organizations
- Local Businesses, Local Funders
- State and National Elected Officials

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) – www.arts.wa.gov
- ArtsWA - Arts Education Research Initiative --
<http://www.arts.wa.gov/media/dynamic/docs/Booklet-Arts-Education-Research-Initiative.pdf>
- ArtsEd Washington – www.artsedwashington.org
- smARTS for Students – Arts Education Guide for Parents and Families -
<http://artsedwashington.org/smartsa>