

Why should art be a part of every student's general education?

Civilization - Art provides access to significant knowledge of our civilization and other civilizations. The study of art of all cultures provides a better understanding of self and others through which students may better understand the diverse population represented by the peoples sharing this world.

Creativity - Art fosters creativity, which promotes students to learn to say and express thoughts, feelings, and values in visual forms. Everyone possesses different degrees of creativity; it is a matter of how that creativity is fostered that counts. Creativity is not simply the manipulation of art materials. It is a purposeful exercise combining skills and technologies with materials to translate an artist's ideas into a visual presentation.

Communication - Art teaches effective communication and opens the doors for students to an entire world of nonverbal forms of communication that carry powerful messages in our culture. The study of art's potential to communicate ideas, emotions and values is fundamental to students' understanding of the modern world and their ability to function effectively within it. Art is an important tool for nurturing the mind and development intellectual and sensory functions. By learning to read the language of art, students will be better able to function in the American culture that is heavily dependent upon and dominated by visual forms of experiences. Visual symbols constitute a global nonverbal language everyone can understand.

Choice - Art teaches students to make choices based on critical assessment, not simply personal and subjective preferences. Learning through the visual arts help students learn to make reasonable choices and become discriminating consumers. Art education nurtures the idea that life's important problems have more than one answer and that a variety of solutions are created in response to any given problem.

Challenge - Art teaches higher-order thinking skills, creative problem solving and cross-cultural understanding to nurture and challenge students intellectually. Art education contributes to the development of self-esteem, flexibility, patience, and discipline. These are life-long skills necessary to successfully study and work in school and society.

21st Century Skills - Inquiry-based art education (DBAE) responds to the evolving, changing needs of students and society, while providing a consistent and coherent structure for the districtwide ASD visual art program that addresses the needs of both the artist and an informed, contributing citizen in our society.