

Dear Parent,

If you've ever wondered whether an arts education is relevant in today's rapidly changing, technology-based environment, just listen to what educators and business leaders have discovered:

The arts enhance the qualities that lead to success in school.

- Recent studies have demonstrated that students who had studied the arts for at least four years scored 59 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT and 44 points higher on the math portion than students who had not had such exposure to the arts.
- Recent and confirmed research in Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and California shows definitively that students in arts programs consistently outperform other students in reading, vocabulary, language arts, and history.
- The arts offer opportunities for success for every student, no matter what his or her learning style, type of intelligence, or language ability. Harvard Professor Howard Gardner theorizes that intelligence comprises seven aspects: mathematical, musical, spatial, kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and linguistic. The arts provide ways to engage each of these aspects of intelligence, deepening and enriching all learning. In addition, some students learn best through listening, some through watching, and some through manipulation of materials. The arts encompass every learning style and can serve as the gateway to greater success in academic subjects.

The arts enhance the qualities that lead to success in life.

- The arts teach students that creating a quality product, such as a performance or a piece of art, requires sustained effort, discipline, and study. Students learn that hard work and delayed gratification are essential to success, and they carry this important ethic into the workplace.
- Arts education helps students learn to deal creatively with complexity and ambiguity and to analyze a variety of approaches to problems. These types of thinking skills are required for successful careers in medicine, law, research, and business.