

- The arts teach teamwork, collaboration, and cooperation, all of which are assets in any work setting. A comprehensive arts education also cultivates such leadership skills as imagination, creativity, evaluation, judgment, flexibility, and the cross-cultural understanding so necessary in today's global marketplace.

Today, the work of business is knowledge work, and students with an arts background possess a significant competitive edge in their ability to acquire, analyze, synthesize, and use knowledge effectively. Arts education pays off, both in enjoyment and in greater opportunities for success.

As the parent of an arts education student, there are many things you can do to ensure that school arts programs are available for your child and for every other student. Be sure to:

- Encourage your child's interest in the arts by attending his or her arts activities and other community arts-related programs.
- Be active in your support of school arts programs. Keep in touch with your local school board and with your local, state, and national representatives, reminding them that you expect funding for school arts programs to continue and increase.
- Advocate for the arts in your civic and community groups, as well as at your place of business. Urge them to help fund or otherwise support school arts programs.

Thank you for your continued interest in school arts and in the children who will benefit from arts education.

Sincerely,