

# fact sheet

## Arts in Education



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“Students who might not have otherwise been successful are flourishing. Discipline problems have nearly disappeared, and academic achievement is constantly rising as a result of the rich arts program.”

—Principle Harvey Deutsch,  
*Green Lake Elementary School, Washington*

*The arts* are an essential aspect of education—creating opportunities for students to apply and develop qualities of a well-rounded individual. Learning experiences that incorporate the arts cultivate the mind, body, and emotions. Schools across the nation that fully integrate the arts into curriculum report higher academic achievement, increased standard assessment scores and behavior improvements (Jenson, 2001). It has been shown that schools that enhance learning with the arts enjoy fewer tardies and trancies. Engaging students in positive learning experiences helps students learn healthier ways of connecting with each other, reducing racism and sarcasm (Deasy, 2002). Ultimately, the arts complete the circle of education where students not only learn facts and theory, but also develop empathy, the ability to see different points of view, attention to purpose, follow through, self direction, and an enjoyment of learning.

### *Students that study arts make social gains*

Youth who participate in the arts for at least three hours, three days each week for at least one school year are:

- 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- 3 times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools
- 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance (Jenson, 2001)

## *Students enjoy cognitive and motivational benefits from arts education*

- Students attending schools with arts-enriched curriculum score significantly higher on reading and math scores than students in schools with standard arts curriculum after 7 months of arts-enriched instruction.
- Students with visual arts coursework score higher on college entrance exams.
- Fine art students report gains in self discipline, work ethic, and teamwork (Jensen, 2001).

## *Studying music develops the mind, body and spirit*

- Music helps to develop visual, perceptual, and discrimination skills, organization, and social skills such as trust, cooperation, and empathy.
- In the journal *Neuropsychologia* it was reported that musicians who started keyboard training before the age of seven had 12% thicker nerve fibers in the corpus callosum, increasing neural connections between the right and left sides of the brain by 12% and improving the ability to think using both the logical and the imaginative sides of the brain.
- A study in Rhode Island, published in *Nature*, reported that first-graders who participated in special music classes dramatically increased their reading skills and math proficiency. Students who studied music appreciation scored 46 points higher on the math portion of the SAT, and 39 points higher if they had music performance experiences, than those without music education.



## *References*

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Jenson, E. (2001) *Arts with the Brain in Mind*. Virginia: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.