

Guidesheet 5 – Research Summary: The Value of the Arts

- The arts are a basic and central medium of human communication and understanding.
- Recent research points to a direct correlation between arts-based learning and enhances student achievement.
- The arts integrate neurological functions and aid student learning and performance in other subject areas.
- The arts access a variety of human intelligence and develop higher order thinking skills.
- The arts engage a variety of learning styles.
- The arts enhance the learning environment: multi-sensory, interactive, challenging.
- The arts stimulate learning and improve overall academic performance; numerous studies indicate that when the arts are made a strong component of the school environment:
 - scores in all areas improve
 - drop out rates decline
 - absenteeism declines
- There is a powerful relationship between knowledge of the arts and success in scientific endeavors.
- The arts teach important skills that prepare the whole person for college and later life.
- Art education is increasingly valued as useful training for a business career.
- The arts incorporate the heritage of many peoples and thereby provide a unique context for multicultural understanding.
- The arts have an unparalleled ability to cross the national boundaries imposed by language and contrasting cultures.

Material summarized from The Value of the Arts, Elizabeth Murfee, for the President's Committee of the Arts and The Humanities, 1992

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