**STRONG ARTS = STRONG SCHOOLS**

**STRONG ARTS = 21ST CENTURY LEARNING**

- Study of the arts provides students with models for discipline, teamwork, confidence, tenacity, project management, and goal setting.

- A recent survey of Michigan State University's scientists and engineers revealed that Honors College graduates in the sciences, technology, engineering and math were three to eight times as likely as the average American to have had lessons in an art or craft. Those who founded companies or licensed patents have even higher exposure to arts and crafts than the average Honors College scientist or engineer. "Take home message? The more arts and crafts experience our scientists and inventors have, the more likely they will be to generate creative capital of clear economic value. Invest in the arts and crafts and it comes back to you many-fold."

- The American public, by an overwhelming margin, believes the arts are vital to a well-rounded education; more than half rate arts education a "ten" on a scale of one to ten.

- A Harris Poll on the attitudes of Americans found:
  - 93% agree the arts are vital to providing a well-rounded education for children;
  - 83% believe that arts education helps teach children to communicate effectively with adults and peers;
  - 79% agree incorporating the arts into education is the first step in adding back what's missing in public education today.
  - 86% agree an arts education encourages and assists in the improvement of a child's attitudes toward school.

- Ernst & Young released its 2010 *Connecting Innovation to Profit* report, detailing compelling reasons why creativity is the essential skill set for the future. "We assume that 50 percent of our revenue in five years' time must come from sources that do not exist today. That is why we innovate." The same Ernst & Young report found that highly successful companies realize that "the ability to manage, organize, cultivate, and nurture creative thinking is directly linked to growth and achievement."

**STRONG ARTS = POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

- The arts help create a positive school environment by fostering innovation, community engagement, increased student attendance, and school identity.

- Arts learning experiences help create the kind of learning environment conducive to teacher engagement and success by fostering teacher innovation, a positive professional culture, and effective instructional practice.

- Arts education helps students develop a respectful, informed understanding of various cultures and eras, including their own. Study of the arts has been shown to diminish stereotypical views of other cultures.

**STRONG ARTS = LOWER DROPOUT RATES**

A leading researcher in developmental psychology estimates that while nearly 95% percent of children are capable of doing the work necessary to obtain a diploma, the dropout rate hovers around 25% (or higher). Arts offer a positive school experience to students who might otherwise quit because they decide school is not for them (usually around the fourth grade).
STRONG ARTS = JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- Nonprofit arts organizations in Pennsylvania directly support more than 36,000 Full Time Equivalent jobs.

- Arts skills are not limited to the visual and performing artists. They are required or strongly desirable in a number of professional capacities such as clothing, furniture, toy, web and all other design professions, plastic surgery, architecture, communications, life sciences such as biology and zoology, advertising, sales display, and publishing, to name a few.

STRONG ARTS = TICKET TO STUDENT SUCCESS

- A growing body of studies presents compelling evidence that connects student learning in the arts to a wide spectrum of academic and social benefits. Students who participate in arts experiences often improve their achievement in other realms of learning and life.

- The arts motivate learning by active engagement, disciplined and sustained attention, persistence and risk taking, among other competencies.

- The arts develop skills in abstract thought, the ability to imagine what isn’t yet. The arts model the ability to generate and combine a limitless variety of ideas. The arts require the facility to use symbols, as part of complex systems of communication.

- Students with high arts involvement perform better on standardized achievement tests.

- Arts learning experiences often improve academic achievement and have other social benefits. The high arts-involved students watch fewer hours of TV, participate in more community service, and report less boredom in school.

- The arts provide a chance for children to express feelings they might otherwise be unable to express. Data shows health benefits for this sort of self-expression.

- Studies document relationships between the arts and academic and social outcomes, including: visual arts instruction and reading readiness; dramatic enactment and conflict resolution skills; study of dance and nonverbal reasoning; and learning piano and mathematics proficiency. For example, in an experimental research study of high school age students, those who studied dance scored higher than nondancers on measures of creative thinking, especially in categories of fluency, originality and abstract thought.


Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania
100 N. Cameron Street, Suite 108A
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-234-0959
jlh@citizensfortheartsinpa.org
http://www.citizensfortheartsinpa.org