



The Arts and Funding

Periodically, we read and hear about news stories that discuss potential budget cuts for Arts and Athletics. The arts frequently undergo scrutiny from people who believe the arts are frills; so trust that from time to time, the arts will experience these challenges.

You are encouraged not to panic but to take the situation seriously and do the following:

- **Continue to provide quality arts programming** in our young people as always
- **Pull out the Arts Resource Kit** - the arts advocacy notebook compiled by the United Arts Council and printed by WCPSS Arts Education
 - Pull together succinct talking points
 - Be able to articulate the value of arts education with regard to student achievement - not necessarily the direct relationship between test scores and arts study but the concepts learned in the arts, which overlap and reinforce academic skills - additionally --- the discipline, focus, and ability to think “outside the box” which are all skills expected by the work force...
 - Listen carefully when a central office administrator comes to your building to explain the superintendent’s budget request - be able to talk about the whole budget and how the arts are an important part of the whole package we offer to young people
- **Use your performance/ gallery showings/ bulletin board displays** ... as an opportunity to educate the community about the value of the arts.

Thanks you for your unending passion for the work you do with the young people in our school district. WCPSS leads the state and perhaps the nation in high quality arts experiences for students because of you. Most of all - maintain a positive attitude and stay upbeat.

Just a few closing thoughts:

The Arts **build life skills** (such as perception and communication), **strengthen academic performance** (focus on creative thinking and analytical skills), **develop skills that business values** (discipline, cooperative work ethic, thinking outside the box) and **makes cents** (positive economic impact on the community).

Famous Quotes to Support The Arts

- The creation of art forms requires the use of judgement, perceptivity, ingenuity, and purpose - in a word, intelligence.
Eliot Eisner - Professor - Stanford University
- There are four reasons why arts education is important: to understand civilization, to develop creativity, to learn the tools of communication, and to develop the capacity for making wise choices among the products of the arts.
Toward Civilization – National Endowment for the Arts
- The true artist, like the true scientist, is a researcher using materials and techniques to dig into the truth and meaning of the world in which he himself lives, and what he creates, or better perhaps, brings back, are the objective, results of his exploration.
Paul Strand - Photographer
- Art, no less than philosophy or science, issues a challenge to the intellect. The great works of music, sculpture, painting, engraving, and all other forms of artistic expression engage the mind, teaching lessons about order; proportion, and genius.
William Bennett - Former US Secretary of Education

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.
Pablo Picasso

If we omit the arts from the curriculum, we are in effect shortchanging the mind.
Howard Gardner - Professor of Education – Harvard University