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12 Reasons to Create a Consistent Arts Experience Across Your District

eBook



Introduction

The world is evolving rapidly, and the demands placed on your students have never been more diverse or dynamic. As we seek to equip them with the skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing society, it becomes essential to embrace a holistic approach to education—one that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and innovation. By recognizing the integral role of arts education, we open doors to a world of possibilities for your students, empowering them to become well-rounded individuals ready to make a positive impact on their communities and beyond.

Throughout this eBook, we will delve into 12 key reasons why creating a consistent arts experience across your school district can make a profound difference in the lives of your students, teachers, and community. From practical cost-effectiveness and promoting social-emotional learning skills to boosting academic achievement and career readiness, each reason is a crucial piece of the puzzle that contributes to a more enriched educational experience.

#1

Demonstrate Academic Excellence

As a district administrator, you know that public perception and support are vital to the success of any educational institution. Creating consistency in the arts programs ensures each student has the same access to high-quality arts education across all schools within your district. By standardizing the curriculum, resources, and teaching methodologies you can guarantee that students receive an equitable and enriched arts learning experience. This commitment to excellence not only cultivates artistic talents but also instills a sense of pride in both students and parents, further enhancing your district's reputation.

Numerous studies have proven that having a strong arts presence in your district can boost test-scores and reduce dropout rates. According to the American Alliance for Theatre & Education, students involved in drama performance coursework or experiences outscored non-arts students on the 2005 SAT by an average of 65 points in the verbal component and 34 points in the math component. Additionally, students considered to be at high risk for dropping out of high school cite drama and other arts classes as their motivations for staying in school. Creating consistency across the arts programs in your district ensures a higher level of quality and standardization across all schools, while also providing a more equitable and enriching arts education experience for all students.



#2

Promote Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) In Students

The arts have a wonderful impact on promoting Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) in students, creating a nurturing space to develop emotional intelligence and essential life skills. SEL encompasses a wide range of abilities, empowering individuals to understand and manage emotions, cultivate positive relationships, show empathy, and make responsible decisions. Let's explore a few great ways the arts contribute to this meaningful journey of SEL.

Emotional Expression

The arts provide an outlet for students to express and embrace their emotions, and it's an effective way for them to understand and manage their feelings, promoting emotional intelligence.

Collaboration and Communication

Engaging in arts activities fosters teamwork and collaboration. It's a chance for students to work together, communicate, and bring their creative ideas to life as a team.

Empathy and Understanding

Through artistic exploration, students get to discover and appreciate diverse perspectives. The arts help build empathy, understanding, and a sense of connection among all students.

Resilience and Problem-Solving

The arts encourage resilience as students face challenges and develop ingenious ways to solve problems creatively. The performing arts can provide an exciting journey of growth and self-discovery for every student.



#3

Create Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement

Having consistency across your district's arts programs brings together students, parents, educators, and the local community in shared artistic endeavors. Demonstrating a deep commitment to arts education not only impacts your students but also elevates the district's reputation in the eyes of the community. A comprehensive arts curriculum showcases your district as a forward-thinking and culturally vibrant educational institution. This enhanced perception fosters community pride and strengthens support for your schools, making them an integral part of the community fabric.

With a community rallied around your arts program, you can open doors to collaborative community partnerships and diversified funding sources that will contribute to the sustainability of your programs. They allow districts to receive help from generous donors, securing grants, and partnering with sponsors. This way, you can lessen the chance of budget limitations and ensure that your arts programs can thrive in the long run!

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#4

Competitive Edge and District Attractiveness

In the competitive educational landscape we have today, a comprehensive arts program can set your district apart from neighboring districts, making it more attractive to prospective students, families, and educators. Providing best-in-class arts experiences across each school resonates with the broader community, leading to increased support and advocacy for your district's educational endeavors. The recognition and appreciation for arts education extend far beyond your district's borders. A staggering 88 percent of the American public acknowledges that the arts are a crucial part of a well-rounded K-12 education, with 56 percent strongly endorsing this belief.

By giving all students in your district access to top-tier arts programs, you align with this nationwide sentiment and position your district as a trailblazer in championing arts education and garnering national recognition and admiration. The positive impact of arts education is a powerful magnet for parents who want an enriching educational experience for their children, making it a key factor in their decision to choose districts that prioritize the arts.





#5

Cultivate Career Readiness and Strong Student Leadership

A comprehensive arts program prepares your students for the 21st-century job market, which demands creativity, adaptability, and innovation. By nurturing these skills through arts education, you enhance their career readiness and ensure they are competitive in diverse industries. According to the Public School Review, numerous studies have demonstrated that students who "take a combination of arts programs demonstrate improved verbal, reading, and math skills, and also show a greater capacity for higher-order thinking skills such as analyzing and problem-solving".

Of course, while the arts hold significance for many other reasons, embracing the full spectrum of your students' potential enables you to create well-rounded individuals ready to thrive in the ever-evolving world. As educators, we all aspire to nurture students who will make a profound impact on the world, and the arts pave a powerful pathway toward that inspiring future.

#6

Embracing Diversity and Inclusion

Emphasizing the arts in every school across your district creates a powerful sense of unity and connection among students. Through collaborative artistic projects, students gain a deeper appreciation for each other's perspectives and cultures, fostering a warm and inclusive district culture. The arts act as a unifier, bridging gaps and elevating overall district morale and camaraderie among students, educators, and staff.

By providing shared creative experiences, the arts promote a strong sense of community and district identity. Parents actively seek educational environments that will enable their children to make meaningful connections with other students, educators, and the wider community. This is because parents understand that the arts not only enhance academic growth but also nurture valuable life skills, creating an environment where diversity is celebrated, understanding is nurtured, and empathy thrives! Ultimately, this commitment to the arts enriches the educational journey and cultivates a truly supportive and united educational community for all.

"Diversity focuses on who is present in the room, while inclusivity revolves around creating an environment where everyone feels they truly belong, and that opportunity should be accessible to all."

Colleen Lewis , Computer Science Professor

Forbes.com, "Why We Need Inclusive Teaching In Every Classroom", Maria Klawe



#7

Setting Your Students up for Long-Term Success

The transformative effects of arts education extend far beyond the classroom. According to the National Endowment for the Arts study, 17% of students with access to the arts would later earn a bachelor's degree, compared to only 5% of students without access to the arts in school.

By offering high-quality arts experience and consistent access to arts program resources in all schools, you can maximize the potential of each student, increasing their chances of pursuing higher education and achieving their academic and career aspirations. This commitment aligns with something that every educator wants to do: provide the best possible foundation for the future success of all students.

For parents, the positive impact of arts education is a significant draw when considering the best educational environment for their children. They recognize that arts education not only enhances academic performance but also instills essential life skills that extend well beyond the classroom. As parents seek the best foundation for their child's future, they're more likely to select a districts that prioritize the arts as an integral part of the educational experience.

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Setting Your Students up for Long-Term Success Cont'd.

Moreover, by including other exciting activities like DECA and BPA clubs, you can make the learning experience even more well-rounded for students. These clubs offer extra chances to learn essential skills like entrepreneurship, marketing, leadership, and problem-solving. By integrating these activities, making it all a part of the collective arts effort, you can help students succeed not only in their studies but also in the real world. It's about giving our students all the tools they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom!





#8

Make the Most of Your Resources

When you provide access to consistent arts experiences in your district, you unlock a world of advantages! You'll make the most of the resources you already have and create a cost-effective approach to education. By working together, utilizing the same tools, and coordinating efforts among schools, you'll efficiently use existing facilities, equipment, and resources for exciting extracurricular activities like performances, exhibitions, and cultural events.

And, when your arts education is standardized across the district, your teachers across the district gain access to a wealth of shared resources, curriculum materials, and professional development opportunities. This uniformity allows educators to collaborate more effectively, share best practices, and exchange innovative teaching techniques. As a result, teachers can save time and effort in lesson planning, giving them more bandwidth to continue delivering impactful and engaging arts education to their students.

#9

Streamlines Administrative Duties

By utilizing consistent tools across your district's various arts programs, you can create a more efficient and harmonious environment, allowing you to implement exciting policies and initiatives that will benefit all schools. There are numerous positive impacts of taking this approach, including:



Smoother Policy Updates

Updating policies or initiatives becomes a breeze when the arts experience is the same across the board. You can efficiently communicate updates to all schools, ensuring everyone is on the same page and implementing changes effectively.



Clear Policy Implementation

A consistent arts experience enables you to implement clear and consistent policies across all schools. Overall, it makes it easier to align all arts programs with the district's educational objectives, maintaining a high standard of quality



Consistent Curriculum Implementation

The implementation of a consistent arts curriculum across all schools ensures that students receive a well-rounded and cohesive arts education, regardless of the school they attend.



Efficient Budgeting Strategies

Implementing a consistent arts framework aids in streamlined budgeting processes. By centralizing financial data, you can allocate resources more effectively, ensuring that each school's arts program thrives while adhering to the district's financial goals.



Centralized Reporting and Unified Data Analysis

A coordinated arts experience fosters comprehensive data analysis, offering a clear view of each school's performance and impact of various teaching methods and activities. This cohesive approach empowers you to fine-tune curricula, adapt strategies, and elevate overall arts education quality for your teachers and students!



#10

Improve Student Behavior and District Morale

One of the remarkable benefits of integrating arts education into a district-wide curriculum is its significant impact on reducing behavioral issues among students. Engaging in artistic activities requires focus, patience, and self-discipline. As students immerse themselves in arts-based projects, they naturally develop self-regulation skills, learning to manage their impulses and emotions effectively. These skills extend beyond the art classroom, positively impacting their behavior in other academic and social settings.

On top of that, arts-based learning captures students' imagination and interest, making them more enthusiastic about attending school and participating in the learning process. When students are genuinely engaged and motivated, they are less likely to exhibit disruptive behaviors born out of boredom or disinterest.

Additionally, a consistent arts program fosters a positive teaching environment. When teachers have a well-structured arts curriculum to work with, they experience greater job satisfaction and reduced stress levels. A cohesive arts program also promotes a sense of camaraderie among educators, creating a supportive community that collaborates and celebrates each other's successes. This supportive network can lead to higher retention rates among teachers and an overall boost in morale for students, too.

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#11

Maximize Community Involvement with a Strategic Arts Calendar

Strategically planning and scheduling arts activities to maximize participation and audience engagement is fundamental to creating a vibrant and inclusive arts community within our district. It ensures that families with kids spanning a wide range of ages and attending different schools, can participate in both events, fostering stronger connections and support. Family friends can easily show their support for each other's childrens' productions, boosting ticket sales without having to choose between conflicting events. By preventing scheduling conflicts, you enable community members, parents, and supporters to attend various events, contributing to overall audience engagement.

Moreover, a well-organized arts calendar generates excitement and anticipation within the community. Regularly scheduled events build momentum, create a joyful synergy that draws in more participants and supporters, celebrating the success of each performance. This enthusiasm is vital as it uplifts your students, boosting their confidence and sense of achievement. It validates their dedication and hard work, encouraging them to take immense pride in their artistic endeavors and inspiring them to keep pursuing their passions.

Thoughtfully coordinating the arts activities across all schools establishes a flourishing culture that embraces everyone's endeavors. Families, friends, and community members alike will have the opportunity to support and connect with all students. With strategic planning, we can nurture an enduring arts community that brings joy to all involved and celebrates the extraordinary achievements of our young artists.

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Pro Tip

Cultivate Collaborative Experiences with a District-Wide Production

A fantastic way to get everyone across your district excited to create a consistent arts experience is by bringing your districts and departments together for an annual district-wide production. Engaging in inter-district collaborations exposes educators to new teaching methods, expanding their skill sets and contributing to their overall professional development. Plus, by collaborating on a district-wide production, you can empower teachers to contribute to a larger educational initiative, allowing them to have a direct impact on creating a consistent and memorable arts experience for students across the broader community.

Want to add some extra magic to the initiative? Consider taking things up a notch by organizing a friendly ticket sales showdown between the schools. Not only does this give your ticket sales and marketing a boost, but it's also a chance for everyone to work toward a common goal and have a blast doing it. It's a competition where everyone comes out a winner!



#12

Nurture Varied Learning Styles

Throughout your district, the arts can offer alternative pathways for learning, catering to diverse student learning styles. By coordinating the arts across your district, you create a holistic and inclusive learning environment that caters to a wide range of learning styles. With arts unification, you can make sure every student feels valued and empowered!

For students in special education, the arts provide a powerful platform for self-expression, creativity, and communication. Many students with diverse needs may find traditional academic subjects challenging, but through the arts, they can tap into their unique strengths and abilities, fostering a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. Artistic activities like drawing, music, drama, or dance can be therapeutic, enhancing emotional well-being and encouraging social interaction and communication skills, critical for their overall development.

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Nurture Varied Learning Styles Cont'd.

Beyond special education, integrating the arts benefits all your students by providing diverse learning opportunities that cater to their strengths. Some students excel academically, while others may be more inclined towards artistic expression. Embracing the arts in a district-wide effort, you celebrate the unique abilities and talents of every student, fostering an environment that nurtures their full potential. This, in turn, creates a classroom of students who are excited and willing to learn, actively participating in their educational journey with enthusiasm and passion.

By embracing arts education district-wide, you demonstrate a commitment to providing a comprehensive and enriching learning experience for all students, regardless of their background, learning preferences or which of your schools they attend.



Conclusion

In today's rapidly evolving job market and educational landscape, the significance of arts education in shaping well-rounded and thriving individuals has never been more apparent. As you've explored the 12 key reasons to create a consistent arts experience across your district, it's clear that this approach embodies a genuine vision for excellence. It's a powerful pathway to create an educational experience that truly enriches the lives of every student and supports their journey to success.

No matter where your district stands in terms of its current arts programs, embracing this consistent approach will undoubtedly pave the way for a brighter and more inspiring future for your students, educators, and community. Together, your district can apply this data-driven approach to foster a cost-effective, vibrant and empowering experience that celebrates the transformative power of arts education.

"From fundraising to ticketing and social media integration, we are very pleased with the product and our customers seem to like it as well.

Joel Smith • Theatre Teacher

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Creating a consistent arts experience for your district's arts education has never been easier with On The Stage! Our platform not only delivers unparalleled flexibility for drama departments in elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as universities, but we also pride ourselves on working closely with every teacher and school. As an administrator, you can seamlessly oversee every facet of your arts programs in a centralized hub, while maintaining the distinct identity of each school.

The best part? It's entirely cost-free for your educational institutions!

Join the growing community of schools nationwide that have embraced On The Stage's robust tools to create an environment that empowers both students and educators.

Book a Demo

Request a demo today and take the first step towards transforming your district's arts education initiatives.

www.onthestage.com

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