Importance of Arts Education Quotes

“The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create.”
—*President Barack Obama*

"I'm calling on our nation's governors and state education chiefs to develop standards and assessments that don't simply measure whether students can fill in a bubble on a test, but whether they possess 21st century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking and entrepreneurship and creativity."
—*President Barack Obama*

"In times of war and sacrifice, the arts -- and these artists -- remind us to sing and to laugh and to live. In times of plenty, they challenge our conscience and implore us to remember the least among us. In moments of division or doubt, they compel us to see the common values that we share; the ideals to which we aspire, even if we sometimes fall short. In days of hardship, they renew our hope that brighter days are still ahead. So let's never forget that art strengthens America. And that's why we're making sure that America strengthens its arts. It's why we're reenergizing the National Endowment of the Arts. That's why we're helping to sustain jobs in arts communities across the country. It's why we're supporting arts education in our schools, and why Michelle and I have hosted students here at the White House to experience the best of American poetry and music."
—*President Barack Obama*

"My husband and I believe strongly that arts education is essential for building innovative thinkers who will be our nation's leaders for tomorrow. It's our hope that we can all work together to expose, enrich and empower Americans of all ages through the arts."
—*First Lady Michelle Obama*

"Learning through the arts reinforces critical academic skills in reading, language arts and math and provides students with the skills to creatively solve problems."
—*First Lady Michelle Obama*

"The president and I want to ensure that all children have access to great works of art. We want all children who believe in their talent to see a way to create a future for themselves in the arts community, either as a hobby or as a profession."
—*First Lady Michelle Obama*

"It's important to me that we give our students a reason to be excited to come to school everyday. The only way that happens is if children have the exposure to a broad range of activities, and music is a huge, huge piece of that. What worries me the most is that children who often need the most access often have the least."
—*Arnie Duncan, US Education Secretary*
"This Arts Report Card should challenge all of us to make K-12 arts programs more available to America's children and youth. Such programs not only engage students' creativity and academic commitment today, but they uniquely equip them for future success and fulfillment. We can and should do better for America's students."
--Arnie Duncan, US Education Secretary

"In June, we received the 2008 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in the Arts results for music and the visual arts. I was reminded of the important role that arts education plays in providing American students with well-rounded education. The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively. These qualities can be especially important in improving learning among students from economically disadvantaged circumstances."
--Arnie Duncan, US Education Secretary

"Let us build a law that discourages a narrowing of curriculum and promotes a well-rounded education that draws children into sciences and history, languages and the arts in order to build a society distinguished by both intellectual and economic prowess. Our children must be allowed to develop their unique skills, interests, and talents. Let's give them that opportunity."
--Arnie Duncan, US Education Secretary

“The last few decades have belonged to a certain kind of person with a certain kind of mind—computer programmers who could crank code, lawyers who could craft contracts, MBAs who could crunch numbers. But the keys to the kingdom are changing hands. The degree of the future is the MFA, and this future belongs to a very different kind of person with a different kind of mind. These people will now reap society’s richest rewards and share its greatest joys.”
—Dan Pink

"I think the arts are perhaps singularly the most neglected part of our educational structure today. And there are some of us who really do believe that an education in the arts is not expendable. It is not extraneous. It's not extracurricular. It is essential. And without it, a student is not getting a full, complete, and total education."
--Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee

"According to the federal law, the arts are a part of the core curriculum. And one of the messages that we need to get into every one of the state capitols is that you have not done the job compliance with "No Child Left Behind" until you not only have fully implemented, but fully funded an arts education for every single student in your public school system. It is a vital part of what we must do in America today."
--Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee

"We must include the arts in the education of all students if we want our children to be prepared for the challenges of life and work in our global society. The challenges of today, and most certainly of tomorrow, require the abilities, skills, habits, and knowledge that education in the arts is uniquely able to provide."
"The arts are fundamental resources through which the world is viewed, meaning is created, and the mind developed."
--Elliot W Eisner, Professor of Education and Art, Stanford University

"The arts must be at the heart of every child’s learning experience if...they are to have a chance to dream and to create, to have beliefs, to carry a sense of cultural identity."
--James D Wolfensohn, former chairman of The Kennedy Center

"The 'back-to-basics' curriculum, while it has merit, ignores the most urgent void in our present system - absence of self-discipline. The arts, inspiring - indeed requiring - self-discipline, may be more basic to our national survival than the traditional credit courses."
--Paul Harvey, nationally syndicated radio commentator

"For our society to move forward, for our culture to survive, fine arts education must remain strong. We already know that kids who study music do better in physics and math. Teaching the fine arts is a rounding of the whole development of the student."
--- Representative Rob Eissler, House Public Education Committee Chair

“The Arts are an essential part of public education. From dance and music to theatre and the visual arts, the arts give children a unique means of expression, capturing their passions and emotions, and allowing them to explore new ideas, subject matter, and cultures. They bring us joy in every aspect of our lives.”
--Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State

“Arts education not only enhances students' understanding of the world around them, but it also broadens their perspective on traditional academics. The arts give us the creativity to express ourselves, while challenging our intellect. The arts integrate life and learning for all students and are integral in the development of the whole person.”
--Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State

“The Arts communicate and speak to us in ways that teach literacy and enhance our lives. We must continue to find a place for arts programs and partnerships not only for what it teaches students about art, but for what it teaches us all about the world we live in.”
--Dr. Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Washington State

“We need to make sure we are preparing our kids for their future and not our past . . . What I see in businesses is a premium on novelty, nuance, and customization. That’s what business is about today. And I fear that our schools are going exactly in the opposite direction. They are increasingly about routines, right answers, and standardization at precisely the moment that the economy is no longer about those things.”
The rapidly evolving global economy demands a dynamic and creative workforce. The arts and its related businesses are responsible for billions of dollars in cultural exports for this country. It is imperative that we continue to support the arts and arts education both on the national and local levels. The strength of every democracy is measured by its commitment to the arts.
—Charles Segars, CEO of Ovation

We need people who think with the creative side of their brains—people who have played in a band, who have painted…it enhances symbiotic thinking capabilities, not always thinking in the same paradigm, learning how to kick-start a new idea, or how to get a job done better, less expensively.
—Annette Byrd, GlaxoSmithKline

Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence.
—Joseph M. Calahan, Director of Cooperate Communications, Xerox Corporation

GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities.
—Clifford V. Smith, President of the General Electric Foundation

I believe arts education in music, theater, dance, and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have an enthusiasm for life a spark of creativity, and vivid imaginations that need training – training that prepares them to become confident young men and women.
—Richard W. Riley, Former US Secretary of Education

The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic…music, dance, painting, and theater are all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment.
—William Bennett, Former US Secretary of Education

“The Arts and Sciences, essential to the prosperity of the State and to the ornament of human life, have a primary claim to the encouragement of every lover of his country and mankind.
—George Washington

“I must study politics and war, that my sons may study mathematics and philosophy…in order to give their children the right to study painting, poetry, music and architecture.”
—John Q. Adams
“Art is a nation’s most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish.”
– Lyndon Johnson, on signing into existence the National Endowment on the Arts

“Aeschylus and Plato are remembered today long after the triumphs of Imperial Athens are gone. Dante outlived the ambitions of thirteenth century Florence. Goethe stands serenely above the politics of Germany, and I am certain that after the dust of centuries has passed over cities, we too will be remembered not for victories or defeats in battle or in politics, but for our contribution to the human spirit.”
– John F. Kennedy

“Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.”
– Albert Einstein

"Pyramids, cathedrals, and rockets exist not because of geometry, theories of structures, or thermodynamics, but because they were first a picture-- literally a vision-- in the minds of those who built them. Society is where it is today because people had the perception; the images and the imagination; the creativity that the Arts provide, to make the world the place we live in today."
– Eugene Ferguson, Historian

“If you have only two pennies, spend the first on bread and the other on hyacinths for your soul.”
– Arab Proverb

"Art is fundamental, unique to each of us…Even in difficult economic times - especially in difficult economic times - the arts are essential."
– Maria Shriver, California’s First Lady, Award-Winning Journalist and Author

“Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative.”
– Paul Harvey, Broadcaster/Commentator

“Music gives us a language that cuts across the disciplines, helps us to see connections, and brings a more coherent meaning to our world.”
– Ernest Boyer, President, Carnegie Foundation

“Man is unique not because he does science, and he is unique not because he does art, but because science and art equally are expressions of his marvelous plasticity of mind.”
– Jacob Bronowski, scientist, formerly of the Salk Institute

“The arts are the best insurance policy a city can take on itself.”
– Woody Dumas, former Mayor of Baton Rouge
"Music Is About Communication, and cooperation, and by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective."
  
  *Bill Clinton, former U.S. President*

"Music Education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them - a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music."

  *Gerald Ford, former U.S. President*

“During the Gulf War, the few opportunities I had for relaxation I always listened to music and it brought me great peace of mind. I have shared my love of music with people throughout this world, while listening to the drums and special instruments of the Far East, Middle East, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Far North, and all of this started with the music appreciation course that I was taught in a third-grade elementary class in Princeton, New Jersey. What a tragedy it would be if we lived in a world where music was not taught to children.”

- *General H. Norman Schwarzkopf — United States Army*

“Music is exciting. It is thrilling to be sitting in a group of musicians playing (more or less) the same piece of music. You are part of a great, powerful, vibrant entity. And nothing beats the feeling you get when you’ve practiced a difficult section over and over and finally get it right. (yes, even on the wood block.) Music is important. It says things you heart can’t say any other way, and in a language everyone speaks. Music crosses borders, turns smiles into frowns, and vice versa. These observations are shared with a hope: that, when schools cut back on music classes, they really think about what they’re doing - and don’t take music for granted.”

- *Dan Rather — CBS News*

“In every successful business…there is one budget line that never gets cut. It’s called ‘Product Development’ – and it’s the key to any company’s future growth. Music education is critical to the product development of this nation’s most important resource – our children.”

- *John Sykes, President, VH1*

“The things I learned from my experience in music in school are discipline, perseverence, dependability, composure, courage and pride in results. . . Not a bad preparation for the workforce!”

- *Gregory Anrig – President, Educational Testing Service*

“Music is an essential part of everything we do. Like puppetry, music has an abstract quality which speaks to a worldwide audience in a wonderful way that nourishes the soul.”

- *Jim Henson – television producer and puppeteer*
“Should we not be putting all our emphasis on reading, writing and math? The ‘back-to-basics curricula,’ while it has merit, ignores the most urgent void in our present system – absence of self-discipline. The arts, inspiring – indeed requiring – self-discipline, may be more ‘basic’ to our nation survival than traditional credit courses. Presently, we are spending 29 times more on science than on the arts, and the result so far is worldwide intellectual embarrassment.”
- Paul Harvey – syndicated radio show host

“It is our job, as parents, educators, and friends, to see that our young people have the opportunity to attain the thorough education that will prepare them for the future. Much of that education takes place in the classroom. We must encourage our youngsters in such pursuits as music education. In addition to learning the valuable lesson that it takes hard work to achieve success, no matter what the arena, music education can provide students with a strong sense of determination, improved communication skills, and a host of other qualities essential for successful living.”
- Edward H. Rensi – President and Chief Operation Officer, U.S.A. McDonald's Corporation

“A grounding in the arts will help our children to see; to bring a uniquely human perspective to science and technology. In short, it will help them as they grow smarter to also grow wiser.”
- Robert E. Allen – Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, AT&T Corporation

"If they are worried about their test scores and want a way to get them higher, they need to give kids more arts, not less. There's lots of evidence that kids immersed in the arts do better on their academic tests."
- Tom Horne, Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction

"Above all, we are coming to understand that the arts incarnate the creativity of a free people."
-- John F. Kennedy

"There is a growing evidence that arts education improves student learning and thereby produces better citizens"
- David J. Skorton, President, Cornell University

"Schools with higher music scores and participation tend to have higher reading, math, and writing scores."
- Timothy Brophy, University of Florida.

"Music education can help spark a child's imagination or ignite a lifetime of passion. When you provide a child with new worlds to explore and challenges to tackle, the possibilities are endless. Music education should not be a privilege for a lucky few, it should be a part of every child's world of possibility."
Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Senator
"While we do not pretend to have the solution to the larger issue of how to improve our schools, we do believe we have an important part of the solution: Music Education. When I say music education, I am not referring to the exposure of our children to music (like listening to classical CDs or taking kids to an orchestra concert). I am not referring to the use of music to teach another subject. I am talking about the sequential acquisition of skills and knowledge in music. I am talking about making and playing music, as part of the regular curriculum, available to all children."

- John Sykes, VH1 President

“A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be at peace with himself. What a man can be, he must be.”
Abraham Maslo

“The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.”
Aristotle

“One must from time to time attempt things that are beyond one’s capacity.”
Auguste Renoir

“Art is contemplation. It is the pleasure of the mind which searches into nature and which there divines the spirit of which Nature herself is animated.”
Auguste Rodin

“Art is the signature of civilizations.”
Beverly Sills

“What is real is not the external form, but the essence of things... it is impossible for anyone to express anything essentially real by imitating its exterior surface.” Brancusi Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing. Camille Pissarro Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it, we go nowhere.”
Carl Sagan

“There are more valid facts and details in works of art than there are in history books.” Charlie Chaplin If I didn't think what I was doing had something to do with enlarging the boundaries of art, I wouldn't go on doing it.”
Claes Oldenburg

“I believe it is impossible to make sense of life in this world except through art.”
Daniel Pinkwater