



# Visual Art is ESSENTIAL



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# Why do we need art?

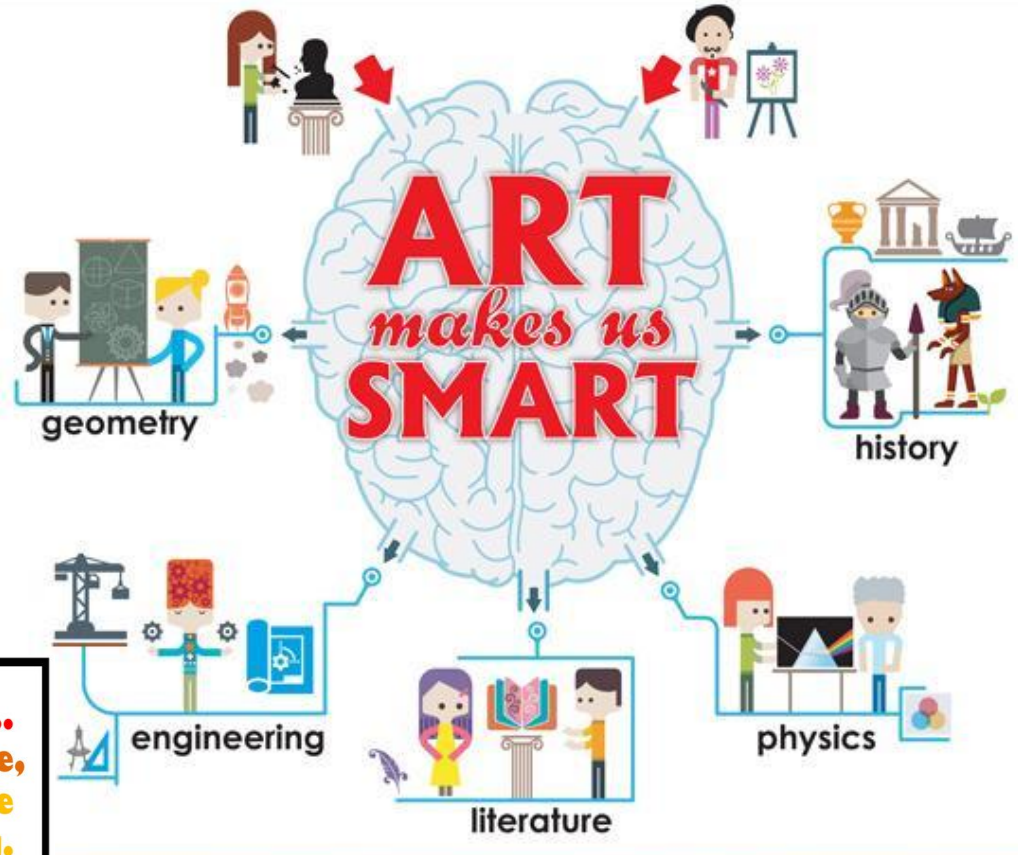


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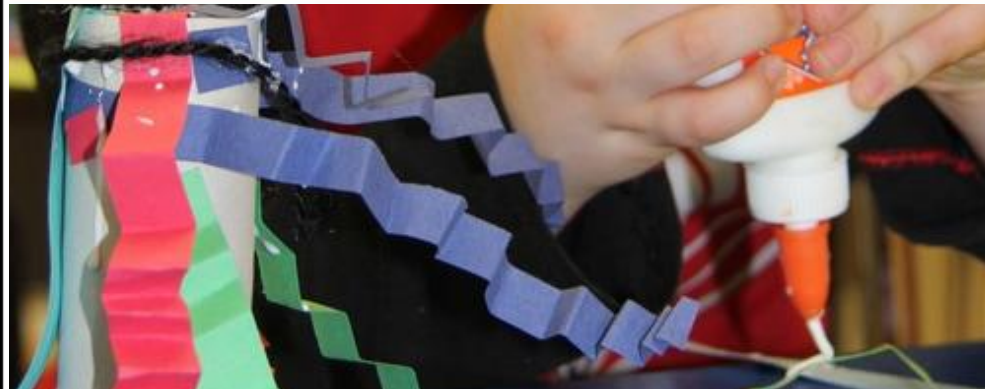
LIFEWTR #BringArtBackToSchools



# Visual Art... makes connections



**Art is the meeting place of all subjects...**  
**Art teachers know, when we grid, measure, and draw — we use geometry. When we make sculptures — we use engineering. When we mix colors — we reveal information about physics. When we create illustrations for stories — we learn about literature. When we review the styles of art from da Vinci to Banksy — we teach history. When we write about art — we strengthen these skills. When we create works of art, we solve complex visual problems in creative ways.** ~Eric Gibbons [ArtEdGuru.com](http://ArtEdGuru.com)



# Visual Art...

# Helps us understand ourselves, others + the world

## Washington Social Emotional Learning SEL Standards

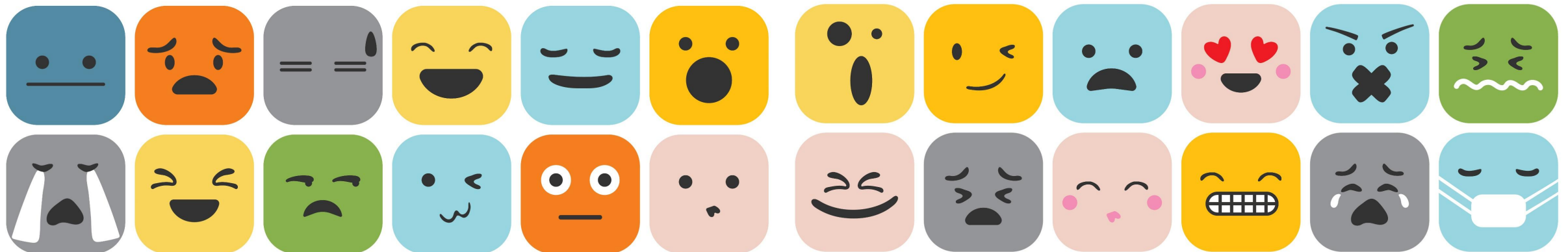
Self-Awareness  
Social Awareness

Self-Management  
Social Management

Self-Efficacy  
Social Engagement

“Arts educators are the secret weapon to implementing social-emotional learning in our schools, and **arts education is the super power** to once again connect our students to our schools and provide a pathway to express themselves for this in this post-covid world of education.”

<https://www.nsba.org/ASBJ/2021/April/arts-education-and-social-emotional-learning>



[https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/emoji-emoticons-set-face-expression-feelings-collection\\_2610009.htm#query=feelings%20faces&position=0&from\\_view=search&track=sph](https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/emoji-emoticons-set-face-expression-feelings-collection_2610009.htm#query=feelings%20faces&position=0&from_view=search&track=sph)



“Art has the ability to affect people in ways nothing else can. For me, I’ve found art as a way to express what I’m feeling without even knowing it at the time. **Art helps me understand my own life.**” – Student



## SELF-AWARENESS

**SEL Standard 1:** Individual has the ability to identify their emotions, personal assets, areas for growth, and potential external resources and supports.

**Arts SEL Statement 1:** The Arts support students in developing *self-awareness* by providing space, practice and supports for self-expression and self-reflection including conscious and intentional naming, and seeking to understand the thoughts and feelings that the creative process evokes.

- The creative process can create vulnerability for the student and make areas of growth highly visible.
- Centering student voices provides a constructive outlet for them to identify and express their emotions, strengths, and areas of growth.
- A safe Arts classroom encourages risk-taking and emboldens students to seek support and resources from teachers and peers.

**Related Arts Anchor Standards:** Creating 2, Responding 7 & Connecting 10

*Connecting The Arts to Social Emotional Learning*





Photo by Andrea Piacquadio: Pexels

# Visual Art... Prepares for the creative future

## Top 10 skills of 2025



-  Analytical thinking and innovation
-  Active learning and learning strategies
-  Complex problem-solving
-  Critical thinking and analysis
-  Creativity, originality and initiative
-  Leadership and social influence
-  Technology use, monitoring and control
-  Technology design and programming
-  Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility
-  Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation

Source: Future of Jobs Report 2020, World Economic Forum.

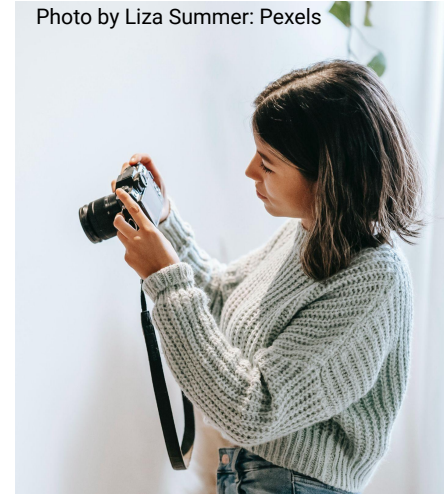


Photo by Liza Summer: Pexels



Photo by Antoni Shkraba, Pexels

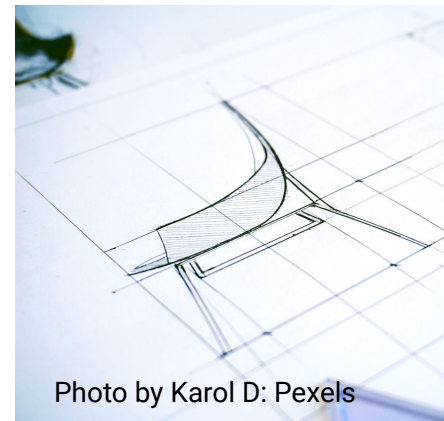


Photo by Karol D: Pexels



Photo by Eren Li: Pexels

## Washington State leads the nation in rate of growth for Arts & Culture industry.

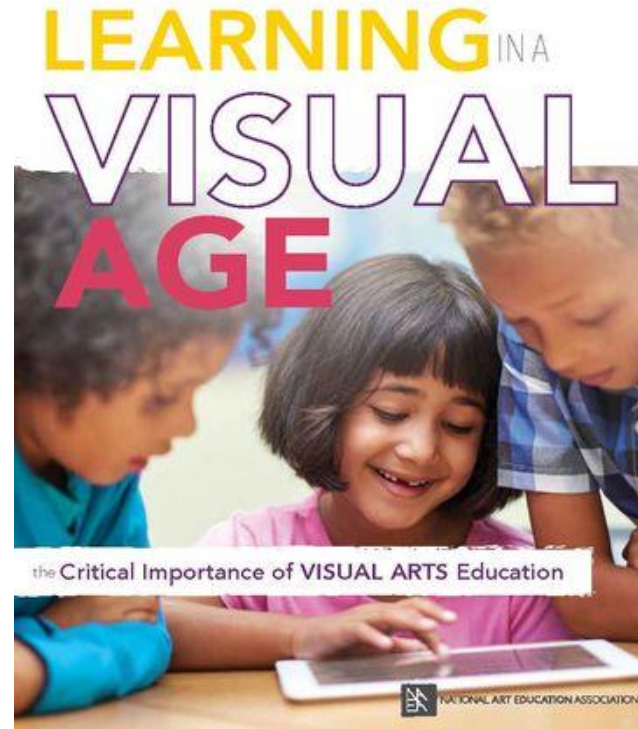
[Data Shows Increase to U.S. Economy from Arts and Culture Sector](#)

# Visual Art...

Is essential in the media-rich world

<https://www.arteducators.org/advocacy-policy/learning-in-a-visual-age>

[What is Visual Language? | The Toledo Museum of Art](#)



Leads to more engaged adults and a stronger society



Students who have had an arts-rich education volunteer more often and exhibit greater civic engagement than other students.

The arts and achievement in at-risk youth: Findings from four longitudinal studies (Research Report No. 55), National Endowment for the Arts.

**VISUAL LITERACY  
IS ALL ABOUT  
UNDERSTANDING  
WHAT YOU SEE.**

**VISUAL LITERACY  
IS A FORM OF  
CRITICAL THINKING.**

**VISUAL LITERACY  
IS IMPORTANT  
FOR PEOPLE IN  
EVERY FIELD.**





# The Arts Are Motivating

The arts help our students to:

## Succeed in School

Students who are involved in the arts are:

4 times more likely to participate in a **math and science fair**

3 times more likely to win an award for **school attendance**

4 times more likely to be recognized for **academic achievement**

3 times more likely to be elected to **class office**

4%  
high arts,  
low SES

22%  
low arts,  
low SES

## Stay in School

Low socioeconomic status (SES) students with a **high** participation in the arts have a drop-out rate of 4 percent, but their peers with a **low** participation in the arts have a dropout rate of 22 percent.

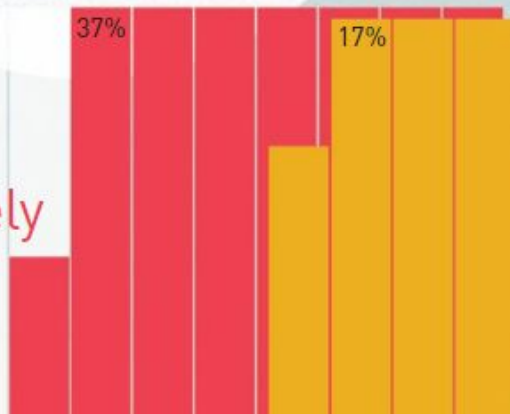
## Succeed in Work

72% of business leaders say that **creativity** is the number one skill they are seeking when hiring.

## Succeed in Life

Low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are **more than twice as likely** to **graduate college** as their peers with no arts education.

more than twice as likely





# Visual Art...

## Is part of a well-rounded education, funded+law

Washington: RCW [28A.150.210](#): Basic education—Goals of school districts

Federal: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes several provisions ensuring the opportunity for students to access arts education.

### [Washington State Visual Art Standards](#) & [National Art Standards](#)

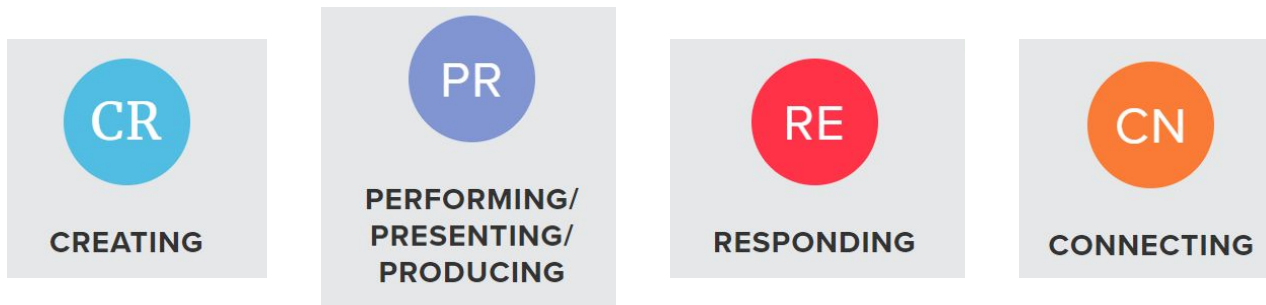


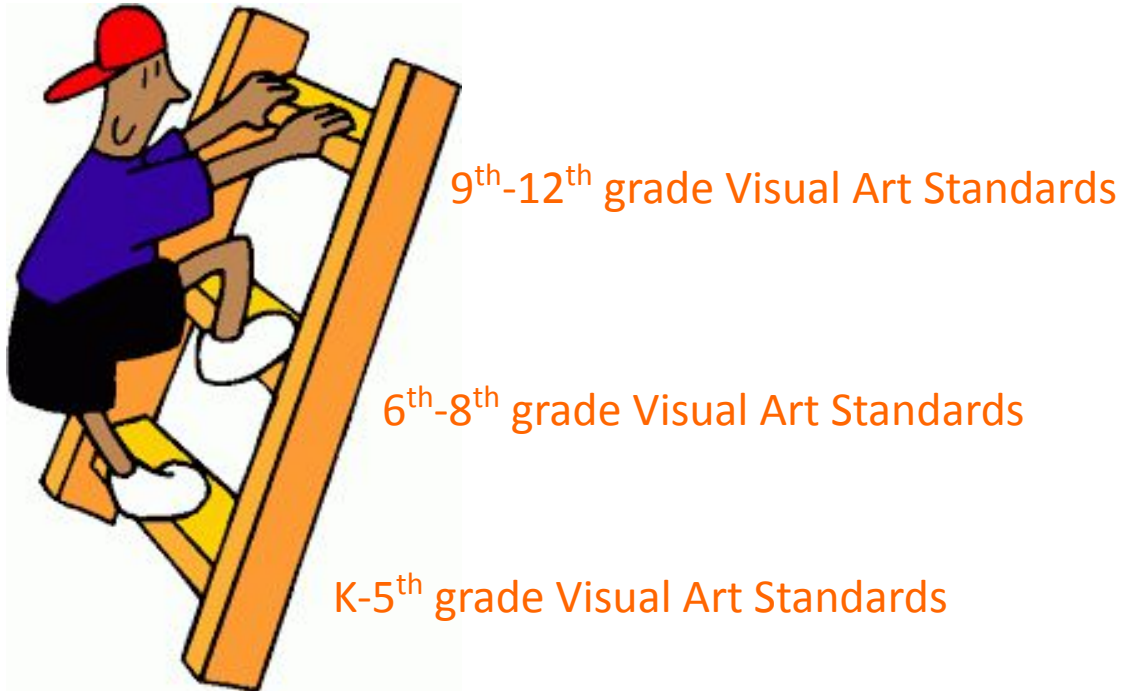
Photo by Yan Krukau: Pexels

“I support providing a well-rounded education for our students: the arts are an essential part of this. **The arts teach to the whole child, engage all learning styles, and lead to the development of powerful learning habits that include such essential 21st Century Skills as creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking.** The arts also provide our students with keys to understanding the world around them and an array of strategies for learning, interpreting, and expressing their thoughts.”

—WA Superintendent Chris Reykdal

Each standard builds upon previous standards.

## Building an equitable foundation of visual arts learning for our kids.



Students receive visual art instruction that is **consistent and sequential**.



Students receive visual art instruction that is **inconsistent and sporadic**.



# K-5 Visual Art Education in NSD

- 1967: Visual Art Specialists cut from the Northshore School District elementary schools (56 years ago)
- 1969: Volunteer led Art Docent program began providing monthly art projects

***\*\*Shout out to OUR AMAZING ART DOCENT CHAIRS, and all the incredible Art Docents!\*\**** Partnering with the Art Docents in the district is important for this effort!

- Docents could enhance visual art opportunities in the classroom or in the art room when art is offered weekly as a special.

**“Arts education in childhood is the most significant predictor of both arts attendance and personal arts creation throughout the rest of a person’s life.**

**All of us who care about the arts in this country have to care about arts education, about exposing young people, early and often, to the arts in rich, rigorous, and repeated ways.”**

National Endowment for the Arts, Arts education in America: What the declines mean for arts participation

# K-5 schools across the region, country, and world offer equitable access to consistent, sequential visual art instruction by Visual Art Specialists

## **Arlington Public Schools: 1/2**

Bainbridge Island Public Schools

Battleground Public Schools

## **Bellevue School District**

Bethel School District (Spanaway area)

Clover Park School District

Columbia School District (Burbank)

Coupeville School District (Whidbey Island)

## **Everett Public Schools: 18/21**

Fife School District (Tacoma area)

Finley School District (Kennewick)

## **Issaquah School District: family-funded**

Kiona-Benton City School District

## **Mercer Island School District**

North Thurston Public Schools (Lacey/Olympia)

Oak Harbor School District

Olympia School District

Othello School District

Pasco School District

Peninsula School District: art/steam  
(Gig Harbor)

Richland School District (Central WA)

## **Riverview School District: 1/2 (Carnation/Duvall)**

Rochester School District: some

## **Seattle Public Schools: most**

Shelton School District

## **Snoqualmie Valley School District: 1/3**

Spokane Public Schools

## **Sultan School District: 1/2**

## **Tahoma School District (Maple Valley)**

## **Tukwila School District**

Vancouver Public Schools

Vashon Island School District

Wenatchee School District

White River School District: 1/2

Yelm Community Schools



Photo by Katie Rainbow 🌈: Pexels



# Most people agree.

## We Believe the Arts Should be Taught in Grades K-12

Nearly all Americans believe students should receive an education in the arts in elementary school (94 percent), middle school (94 percent), and high school (93 percent).



94% believe students should receive an education in the arts in elementary school, middle school, and high school.

## We Believe the Arts are Part of a Well-Rounded Education

Nearly every American believes the arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.



9 in 10 Americans agree the arts are part of a well-rounded education.



### Americans Speak Out About the Arts in 2018

Americans for the Arts' Public Opinion Poll provides an in-depth look at the perceptions and attitudes about the arts in the United States. Browse more findings from the Public Opinion Poll:

[AmericansForTheArts.org/PublicOpinion](https://www.americansforthearts.org/PublicOpinion)

“The goals of public education are predicated on our common purpose to generate effective citizens who are emotionally secure, socially empowered, and civically engaged.

To fully achieve these goals, we must reclaim our shared vision of a well-rounded education and chart a different course.

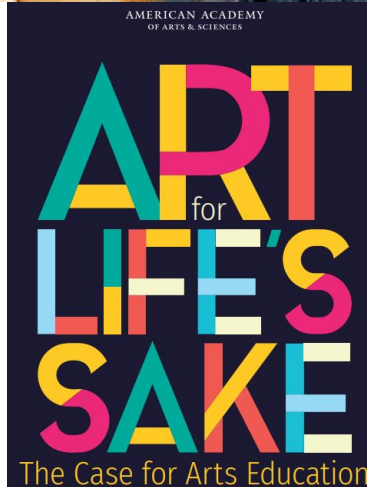
**Arts education is  
a right that should  
be available to  
every child in  
America.”**

**ARTS** education was already in a state of crisis and dire need before the fraught year of 2020, and the pandemic has intensified that crisis exponentially. We regard our report as a celebration of the arts, a gesture of optimism, and, above all, a call to action.



Photo by Ashok Gurjar : Pexels

*Art for Life's Sake: The Case for  
Arts Education (amacad.org)*





# WA State Senate Bill 5878, 3/30/22

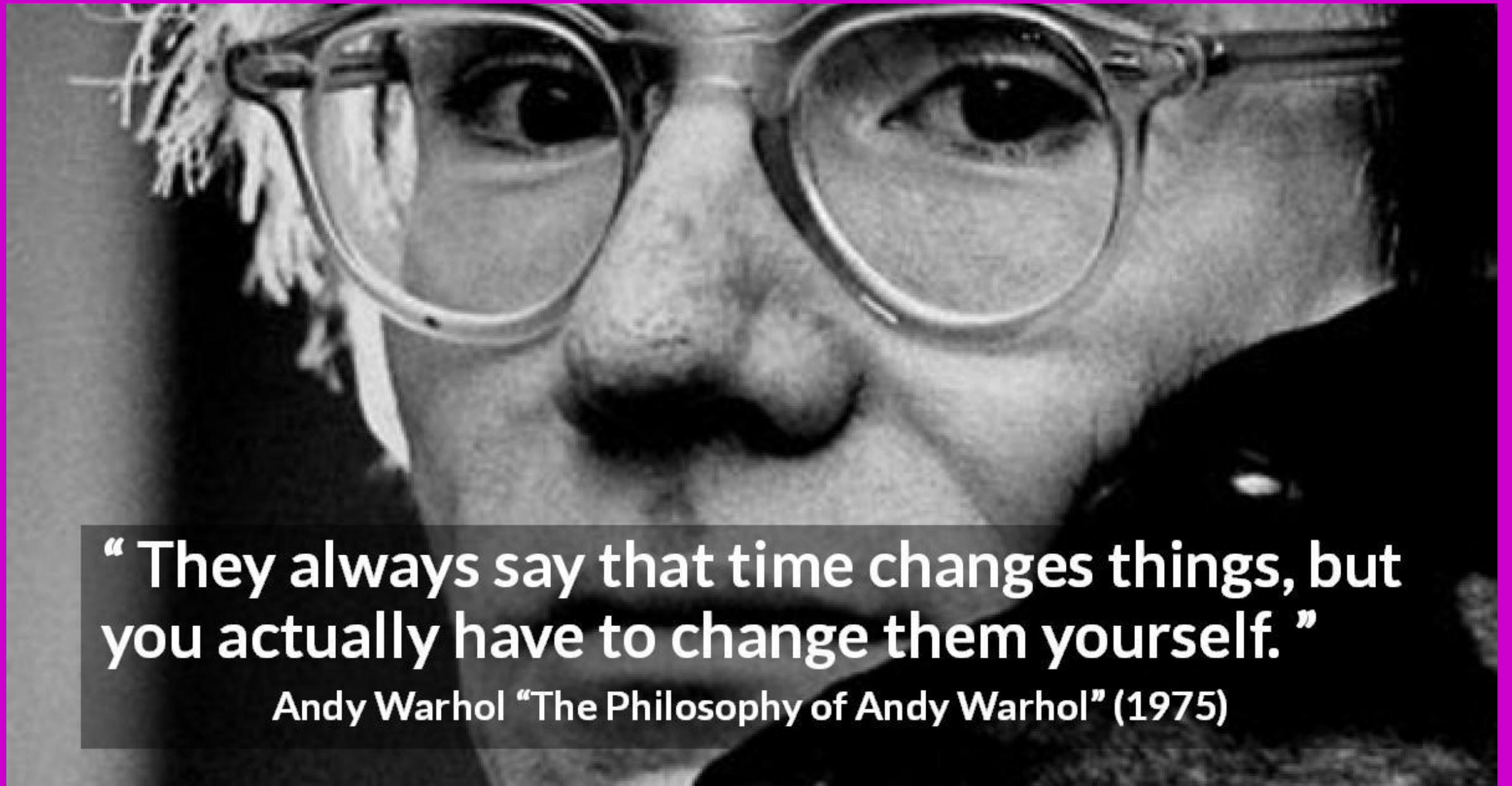
The **legislature intends to clarify**, for schools and school districts, the **importance of arts education** and to **bring our schools' practices in line with our state and federal laws and policies**, and the **promises made to our communities**, by **ensuring formal instruction in the core disciplines of visual and performing arts for all Washington students**, regardless of their **family's socioeconomic status** or the **relative affluence of the neighborhood** in which they live. The legislature recognizes and supports that the best practice is for basic education courses, including the arts, to be taught by certificated teachers who are qualified through an endorsement to teach in the subject area of the course.

# WA State Senate Bill 5878, 3/30/22



- Arts instruction must be
  - accessible by all students, in a way that is consistent with instruction in other core subject areas like Math, Reading, and Writing.
  - taught by teacher endorsed in the art discipline
  - **Arts teachers in the district determine what is taught at each grade level**





**“ They always say that time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself. ”**

**Andy Warhol “The Philosophy of Andy Warhol” (1975)**

# Your voice matters in this important issue!

<https://forms.gle/RKVteCs7qdE8vRB56>



1. Sign the Statement of Support
2. Like the “Elementary Art 4 Northshore” Facebook Page & on Instagram
3. Tell other Northshore families, staff, and community members about this effort and that



Visual Art Education  
is **ESSENTIAL!**



Contact: Nicole Dibble, [ndibble11@gmail.com](mailto:ndibble11@gmail.com)



**ART HAS**  
THE ROLE IN EDUCATION  
OF HELPING CHILDREN  
BECOME LIKE THEMSELVES  
INSTEAD OF MORE  
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.  
-SYDNEY GUREWITZ CLEMENS

# The PTA exists in part to **ADVOCATE** for students. We have a collective impact!

1. Vote on the Visual Arts Resolution
2. Post the EA4N Flyer on your PTA bulletin board
3. Share this information on FB,
4. IG, and email communications.  
PTA account can like and share posts from “Elementary Art 4 Northshore” on FB & IG



**Whereas** Shelton View PTA believes that the visual arts are central to learning and that including visual arts courses in elementary education is key to the development of students;

**Whereas** visual arts are recognized as a core academic subject in Washington state, and under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and is also considered part of a well-rounded education under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA);

**Whereas** Senate Bill 5878 was passed in March 2022 by an overwhelming majority in the WA Legislature. The Bill specifically notes that many schools are not adequately providing a range of Arts instruction to the youngest learners and states *"The evidence of the multiple benefits of arts education is voluminous and undeniable. The arts are not only a vehicle for doing better at other subjects; they have immense value in their own right and should be taught as stand-alone disciplines, the way our laws and policies are written."*;

**Whereas** students succeed in social emotional learning with an education in the visual arts. The arts help students to find their own voice and identity. The visual arts increase engagement and emotional connection;

**Whereas** visual arts in education helps our communities. Studies show that students who are exposed to an arts education exhibit greater understanding of cultures other than their own and engage more in civic opportunities;

**Whereas** visual arts education helps students of all abilities succeed. Visual arts education provides increased academic, social, and functional skill development and knowledge which can play a crucial role in their overall success. All students of diverse abilities can be successful through the arts;

**Whereas** the visual arts prepare students for the future. Creativity is one of the top five applied skills sought by business leaders. Low-income students who receive an arts education are twice as likely to attend college as those who receive no arts education;

**Whereas** Northshore School District has not had certified visual arts specialists in the elementary schools since 1967 while other school districts in our state currently do, such as Everett Public Schools, Bellevue School District, Seattle Public Schools, Mercer Island Public Schools, Olympia Public Schools, Vancouver Public Schools; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that Shelton View PTA:

- Will advocate for the implementation of visual arts instruction as a core subject in Northshore elementary schools taught by visual art specialists, as noted in SB5878, "Every student must have access to arts education, as part of basic education..."
- Will forward a copy of this resolution to the Northshore School Board and the Northshore Council PTSA.