

10 Lessons From The Arts

- 1) **In the arts we learn to make good judgments about relationships that are difficult, if not impossible, to measure.** Unlike much of school, in which correct answers and enforced rules are a priority, it is reasonable and informed judgment that often prevails in the arts.
- 2) **The arts remind us that problems can have more than one solution,** and questions can have more than one answer.
- 3) **In the arts we celebrate and appreciate multiple perspectives.**
One of the arts' larger lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.
- 4) **The arts reassure us it is okay when our original purpose for solving a problem changes with circumstances and opportunities.** The arts require the ability and willingness to surrender to unanticipated possibilities as a project unfolds.
- 5) **The arts remind us that we know far more than just words and numbers allow us to demonstrate.** Our thinking exceeds our language.
- 6) **The arts show how small differences can have major effects.** The arts thrive in subtleties.
- 7) **In the arts we think through and think within the possibilities of materials.** All art forms employ some means through which our thoughts, feelings, values and beliefs are made real.
- 8) **In the arts we learn to say what cannot be said.** When people describe what a work of art makes them feel, they reach into their poetic capacities to find the words that will do the job.
- 9) **The arts give us experiences we can have from no other source,** and through such experiences we discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling.
- 10) **The arts' position in our schools' and communities symbolizes to our children what adults believe is important.**

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