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Philosophy of Integration of Arts

Research has shown that the integration of visual, theatrical, and musical arts allows children to become more engaged, motivated, and submerged in the material being taught in a classroom. I will create a classroom environment where I target all multiple intelligences and teach to individual student's learning styles which can be supported by integration of the arts.

Almost everyone can find joy in the arts whether it be going to a museum, creating music or a piece of visual art, participating in a performance, writing a song, etc. The arts allow people to express themselves while learning about a topic. This allows for teachers to make core subjects interesting and students to make connections between their interests and the topic they are learning about. It has been proven that students who are involved in lessons that go along with an art form develop intrinsic motivation (ArtsEdSearch). This means instead of being given a materialistic award for completing a task, they develop a sense of self pride and satisfaction from within. The arts create this feeling by allowing a student to become the artist themselves while their learning is meaningful and purposeful. Creating something is much more rewarding than memorization. Intrinsic motivation also lends itself to a deeper understanding of the subjects being taught. When a student has motivation within themselves, they will do their best to understand the material that is being taught.

I believe that the arts are also a very important aspect of assessment and measurement of goals. Too often teachers refer to paper and pencil or standardized test to reflect the progression or knowledge their students show. The arts can be used to allow students who don't always perform to their best ability on paper and pencil test to excel in the classroom. I stand by the notion that it is best to rethink the use of standardized scores as a secure measurement of a student's knowledge (Chicago Arts Partnership in Education). Just like I mentioned above, the arts give teachers a great opportunity to target multiple

intelligences in their lessons and units. Understanding what kind of learner each child is will ensure that their needs are being met. Visual, musical, and theatrical arts are easily involved because there are so many different forms of activities and tasks within these categories that will meet all of the multiple intelligences.

I have explored many different activities, performance tasks, lessons, and assessments that have to do with the integration of the arts. Some examples of this are simple recall songs/transition songs for kindergarten aged students, the creation of music being involved with math through MaKeyMaKey kits, reader's theatres, using dance/poetry/song to display understanding of a topic, and many more. One of the reasons that these different ideas and lessons involving art are so important is because they support the research behind "whole child". Meeting the needs of the whole child leads to engagement. This means social health, emotional health, and academic needs. Art aids in keeping all of these aspects of whole child healthy because it allows for personal reflection, creativity, and engagement. By taking on a more active role through the arts, students can become engaged socially, emotionally, and academically (ASCD). The arts can even be moved outside of the general education classroom in elementary school and be integrated into other classes. For example, by using the arts a teacher can easily contact music, PE, art, library, and computer technology classes to allow them to become part of a unit that has some art activities.

Overall, the arts are a very crucial part of a child's education because they are a simple, interesting, and engaging way to allow a student to be creative and self-reflect. Self-reflection and the ability to create something that shows a complete understanding of a topic gives the child a personal experience from learning. I believe that whenever a child has an opportunity to be taught to their individual needs and create something that has a specific meaning and connection to themselves, it will stick with them forever. The arts are a great tool to involve in core subjects because they enable students of all different learning styles the ability to succeed in school.

Work Cited:

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