Learn More About the Arts and 4 Cs

**Creativity**


IBM's global study of CEOs, general managers and senior public sector leaders in 60 countries and 33 industries revealed that creativity is the most important leadership skill for a complex world. Human resource officers worldwide are focusing on cultivating creative leaders with a flair for thinking about opportunities and challenges in completely different ways.


Kaufman and colleagues outline major creativity research and evaluate various creativity measures including divergent thinking tests, peer/teacher assessment and self-assessment.


Robinson refers to the "element" as that magical experience when a person's passion and creative talent are leveraged. People find their "element" when they are most "themselves" and follow their inspiration. They in turn achieve their greatest heights. Robinson draws upon the life stories of creative leaders in many fields to demonstrate how finding "your element" can fill a life with confidence and accomplishment.

**Critical Thinking**


Barell explains the importance of fostering an atmosphere of inquiry. He provides practical examples of how to expand daily exploration and curiosities, encouraging students to exchange questions and thoughts and how to establish a classroom culture that is based in curiosity.


Darling-Hammond, a renowned expert on performance-based assessments, presents case studies and promising practices that will inform and inspire educators and policy makers. She urges a paradigm shift from traditional, standardized testing to more robust forms of assessment that enable educators to evaluate how students master intellectual challenges and apply learning to life.


Hetland makes a strong case for arts education based on research that examines the immersive inquiry practices of experienced arts teachers. Educators from other disciplines are urged to adopt the best practices demonstrated by art teachers.


Sternberg relates creativity and cognition in his review of research on problem solving and intelligence. He discusses the creative process and how to measure creativity.

**Communication**


McKay explains the importance of effective communication skills, how to craft the message, convey effectively, understand the context and audience, and receive listener feedback. He suggests methods to overcome common communication barriers.


Silberman presents communication insights with practical tips and engaging exercises. Improve your ability to hear and be heard.

"Just imagine the impact if arts education was embraced fully and integrated wholly into every school’s curriculum. It would unleash the talents of all children, helping them to succeed academically, giving them more self-confidence, teaching them to be open and tolerant, and keeping them engaged in school."

Gail Connelly, Executive Director, National Association of Elementary School Principals

Simmons demonstrates how bringing stories to life helps the audience remember your message. Learn how to find, develop and tell stories that will engage others and help them see your point of view. Great for arts advocates!

### Collaboration


Friedman provides guidance for teaching visual arts from a cultural standpoint and addresses how exploring others' visual culture helps interpret their cultural context.


Hargrove believes one of the biggest breakthroughs of the 21st century will be the increased focus on collaboration. He provides a strategic rationale for “why to” and step-by-step hands-on guidance on “how to” be more collaborative.


Rosen discusses 21st century trends and the increased need for collaboration. He provides collaboration tips and tools to help foster a collaborative culture based on trust and communication.


Tharp, a world-renowned dance choreographer, defines collaboration as a process where success can be measured by the outcome. Her premise is simple: “the we is greater than the me.” Tharp explains how to recognize good candidates for partnership and how to build a successful collaboration.


VanGundy and Naiman propose that the arts are a way to create transformative learning experiences in organizations. They share lessons learned in arts communities and apply them to businesses and other organizations. More than 70 engaging activities bring theories to life and urge readers to engage in collaborative experiences. Become a change agent who brings more collaborative practices to your colleagues.

### Learn More About How Creativity Connects Us

#### Creativity Connects the World


This book helps readers understand cultural awareness and know how being culturally aware can benefit them and their students. It provides practical ideas to increase students’ cultural competence to enhance relationships and communication and to take action as global citizens.


This book will help teachers raise students’ awareness and understanding of global trends and events and help students think about the world more holistically and systematically. Seven case studies are explored from a global perspective: AIDS, endangered species, endangered languages, energy systems, gasoline prices, food contamination and terrorist attacks.


This handbook helps teachers infuse a global focus into teaching. It describes several projects that schools can become involved in.


This free PDF summarizes studies of global dynamics, perspective consciousness and human decision making. Explore how cultural perspectives are built and evolve. Hanvey provides a realistic perspective on world issues and an awareness of various cultural perspectives around the world. [http://globaled.org/an_att_glob_persp_04_11_29.pdf](http://globaled.org/an_att_glob_persp_04_11_29.pdf)

Educators are challenged to expand their perspective on how to build a sense of global citizenship within students and how to modify curriculum to integrate global perspectives.


This book addresses the relationship between globalization and cultural diversity. Geography is viewed as a social science relevant to human problems, culture, population patterns, language and industry.


Parents, educators and communities must prepare children to succeed by increasing socialization skills and to become informed global citizens. This idea book offers suggestions for hands-on, minds-on engaging activities for all ages, using language, play, meals, celebrations, “watching the world,” “reading a movie” and more.

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**Creativity Connects Schools with Families**


Drawing from 30 years of research experience as a professor of psychology and childhood development, Berk makes recommendations to educators and parents on how to support children’s cognitive and creative abilities. She pulls from sociocultural studies that document how parents and teachers can contribute profoundly to the development of competent, caring and well-adjusted children.


Edwards, a nationally recognized expert in parent involvement, offers strategies that foster strong family–school partnerships, which, in turn, help build student success. Her strategies enable teachers to interact with diverse families.


Filled with stories and specific ideas, Fried addresses the question: “How do parents and teachers raise children to be lifelong learners?” He unveils several stories of children’s passion for discovery and how their innate curiosity as preschoolers dissolves as they enter elementary education. His solution to keep children creative and passionate learners resides in a triangle of partners: parents, teachers and the children themselves as co-directors of their learning.


Gardner, a leading cognitive psychologist, discusses how young children learn to draw, make music and tell stories. He explores all aspects of human creativity and cognition, and makes recommendations for educators and parents.


This book provides tools for successfully involving parents and families as partners with educators to create environments where students learn and thrive. Based on solid educational research that reflects culturally diverse communities, this book offers teachers and administrators 55 practical strategies for forming effect partnerships with families.


This practical guide helps teachers, families and administrators build collaboration and cooperation in schools. Contains research that proves that when schools, families and the community work together, children do better in school, like school more and stay in school longer.


This book is part of a series that translates research into practices that lead students, teachers, administrators and families to stronger school outcomes. Through fact-based educational research and real-life experiences, readers will learn practical approaches to encourage parental involvement in school decision making, bridge home with school and form school–family partnerships.


This book details methods for evaluating parental involvement in a child’s education. It offers an evidence-based model for parental participation and an analysis of key interpersonal skills for effective work with parents.

Jensen examines how poverty affects the brain’s ability to learn. He gives insight into children’s behavior and academic performance when they are living in poverty. He cites examples of model schools in low socioeconomic areas and demonstrates how educators can improve both academic achievement and life readiness skills of economically disadvantaged students. Art is an important part of proposed solution.


This book helps teachers partner effectively with families of elementary students. Using a framework of ecological systems theory, this book presents child development theory with research-based teaching cases that address critical dilemmas in family-school-community relations. Special attention is given to families who live in poverty. Readers are encouraged to link theory and practice and hone analytic and problem-solving skills for use in real-world situations with students and families.

Arts-Infused Education Advocacy


This brochure from the Arts Education Partnership offers recommendations for establishing a school-wide commitment to arts learning, creating an arts-rich learning environment and rethinking the use of time and resources.


Significant longitudinal data show support for benefits of arts education. Findings from two studies done by Catterall and colleagues from the National Educational Longitudinal Survey in the late 1990s and 2009 strongly connect arts learning with both academic success and pro-social outcomes.


This study provides the corporate perspective of skills that are increasing in demand in the workforce. Creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration are high on the list.


Davis makes a powerful case for why the arts are essential to every child’s education. She offers educators and advocates evidence in support of arts education programs and helps advocates make a persuasive case.


Eisner presents strong arguments for the inclusion of the arts as a core element of the school curriculum. He addresses both assessment and evaluation in the arts, and proposes a shift from the evaluation of outcomes to the evaluation of process.


Each of the four arts disciplines promote brain development. Jensen provides a neuro-biological case for why the arts should be taught in schools and practical suggestions for educators to use to improve students’ academic achievement.


This guide examines the evidence about the capacities that art education develops in students and what it can prepare them to do. It explores what high-quality instruction looks like and takes a look at some environments in schools and in other settings in which excellent visual arts instruction takes place.


This guide offers three concrete actions school principals can take to increase arts education in their schools: establish a school-wide commitment to arts learning, create an arts-rich learning environment, and rethink the use of time and resources.


Norwood Elementary School, Baltimore, MD. Photo by eMedia Works.
This special supplement profiles best practices in arts-infused education throughout the country. It provides insights for becoming “art smart,” turning ideas into practice and bringing creativity into schools, whether in four minutes, four weeks or four years. www.Crayola.com/creativelyalive

This special supplement highlights schools that are using the arts to connect students to the world, engage families in student learning and teach literacy, math and other subjects. It reveals the strategies of arts-engaged principals and offers guidance for building a creative leadership team. And it unveils the latest research on arts access, availability and quality—and the rewards of the arts for at-risk students. www.Crayola.com/creativelyalive

The Partnership has forged alliances with key national organizations that represent the core academic subjects, including social studies, English, math, science, geography and the arts. As a result of these collaborations, the Partnership has developed this map to illustrate the intersection between 21st century skills and the arts. The maps will enable educators, administrators and policymakers to gain concrete examples of how 21st century skills can be integrated into core subjects.

This toolkit is designed for state and district leaders who are interested in implementing the Common Core standards in ways that strengthen the 4 Cs. http://www.p21.org/images/p21_toolkit_final.pdf

This is the most comprehensive report on the state of arts education in schools published in a decade. It reviews research, literature, promising practices and state initiatives—making a case for why the arts are “a wrench to fix schools” not just a “flower to beautify” them. The report presents recommended action steps for policy makers, educators and the private sector. The resource appendix is a treasure trove of studies and model arts programs that will connect readers to additional insights.

Robinson gives historical perspective on the evolution of what education values. He makes a strong case for understanding the archaic nature of the Intelligence Quotient that fails to consider each person’s unique gifts. Robinson argues for radical changes in education to meet the challenges of living and working in the 21st century. His focus is on the need for creativity.

What skills do students need in the 21st century to meet today’s challenges and be successful? Educators are urged to build students’ 4 Cs and change pedagogy to prepare students for the fast-changing global economy.

Visit Crayola.com/CreativelyAlive for more resources on the arts and the 4 Cs.