

# ARTS-INFUSED EDUCATION ADVOCACY



## What Is **Arts-Infused** (or *Arts-Integrated*) Education?

- Teaching “through” and “with” the arts, creating relationships between different arts disciplines and other academic skills and subjects
- Teaching cross-classroom subjects in tandem with the arts
- Using arts strategies to build skills and teach classroom subjects across different disciplines, including reading, math, science and social studies

## Arts-Infused Education Advocacy

Championing the integration of the arts across the curriculum and school-wide to build the 4 Cs *plus*

### **The 4 Cs— Essential Skills All Students Need to Succeed**

#### **Creativity**

Discovering novel ways to think, learn and do

#### **Critical Thinking**

Using original ideas to solve problems

#### **Communication**

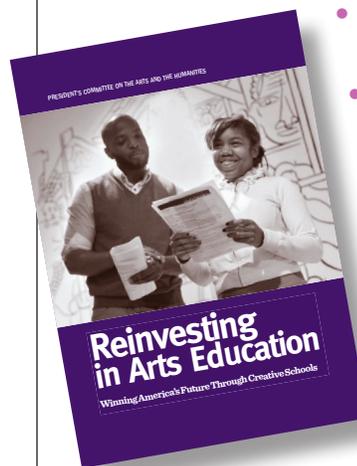
Expressing thoughts and feelings effectively

#### **Collaboration**

Working in partnership with others toward a common goal

## Benefits of **ARTS-INFUSED EDUCATION**

- Increased student achievement
- Engaged and motivated students
- Powerful ways for students to learn academic skills and the 4 Cs of creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration



- More innovative and effective teaching strategies
- Creative, collaborative learning environments
- Reduced achievement gaps
- Less absenteeism
- Fewer discipline problems

To learn more about the benefits of arts-infused education, see

*Reinvesting in Arts Education:*

*Winning America's Future Through Creative Schools*, the 2011 report of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

[http://www.pcah.gov/sites/default/files/photos/PCAH\\_Reinvesting\\_4web.pdf](http://www.pcah.gov/sites/default/files/photos/PCAH_Reinvesting_4web.pdf)



# 4 Cs of ARTS-INFUSED EDUCATION ADVOCACY

## CONCISE

Translate your beliefs and passions about the power of the arts into a crisp, concise message.

## COMPELLING

Figure out why the arts matter to your audience. Advocacy only works if people think the arts are important.

Use research to make your case and share best practices to tell compelling stories about arts-infused education.

## COLLABORATIVE

Find partners who care about the arts in education and model collaboration skills to reach a common goal.

Join voices with partners in your community to increase your strength and influence.

## CHANGE

Picture what success will look like.

Plan the change you want to create.

Take steps together to reach your goal.



### Tips for Art Teachers: Take on the “Chief Creative Officer” Role

- Display student artwork throughout the school and community. Exhibiting student creations reinforces the celebration of their originality in a public way—and it energizes students and parents. Compose exhibits so viewers can understand how the artwork relates to the curriculum. Ask students to write about the thinking in their artwork. Show a representative sample that shows a variety of interpretations.
- Regularly invite your principal and other teachers to the art studio to see works in progress.
- Help colleagues see new ways to incorporate the arts across the curriculum and build their creative confidence.
- Reach out to other teachers and collaborate with them on arts-infused learning experiences—and enlist their support in arts advocacy initiatives.
- Promote the value of arts-infused education to the faculty, parents or community members using the Champion Creatively Alive Children program.



### Tips for Principals and Teachers

- Consider art teachers a vital part of the school’s creative leadership and ask them for suggestions on how to infuse the arts across the curriculum.
- Ask art teachers to participate in school leadership groups and help make the arts an integral part of school-wide initiatives.
- Explore how arts education programs can help schools achieve their academic goals.



### Tips for Parents and Community Members

- Find out about the arts education program in your district or school.
- Make sure district and school decision makers know that you value the arts.
- Channel your passion for the arts into creative, collaborative efforts to build and sustain arts-infused education in your school or district.



### Tips for All Arts Advocates

- Use current research about the benefits of arts-infused education to make your case.
- Get smart about the arts: Visit [Crayola.com/CreativelyAlive](http://Crayola.com/CreativelyAlive) to find out how arts-infused education can help students learn the 4 Cs they need to succeed.

