Introduction

My experience with art & music

I draw EVERYTHING! Always had an affinity for art.

* Color, wanting my bedroom to be bold, expressive.
* The way different mediums feel in my hands.
* Being able to express myself.
* MSU saturday art classes.
* Mural in HS.

I love music, I always have. Listening to someone who is proficient on the piano or guitar, gives me chills. Music seems to fill the soul.

* recorder , elementary
* Band, middle school, learning music

Solo and ensemble, awards, lessons

* Choir, high school
	+ Solo and ensemble, chorale, quartet
	+ Scholarship for 1st in state quartet

The arts are tied to so much of LIFE and many other areas of EDUCATION.

Through art, we understand

* color theory, which ones go together,
* we explore how light behaves - what makes shadows, reflections.
* Through art we gain an understanding of perspective and spacial awareness - can you imagine how hard that would be to teach perspective without drawing it out?
* MC Escher = math, geometry, spacial understanding
* Storytelling, literature = Peter and the wolf, music related to the story. The nutcracker. Poetry. Memory recall.

Schools push STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics - but where did Art go?

Despite studies that suggest arts have many positive outcomes, schools continue to cut the arts out of their curriculum - makes me sad. And if schools do not teach arts, its left for parents to expose their children to these areas or extra curriculars. As a single mother, I can respect the fact that these options could be difficult.

Americans for Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts and arts education. They have conducted studies that found students involved in the arts have lower drop-out rates, are more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, and score higher on the SATs.

Furthermore, employers are looking for creativity! Americans for the Arts also found that 72% of employers say creativity is the number 1 quality they look for in a potential employee!

Think about that. Obviously some careers need specific training and employees need to hone those skills...but how many times have you run into a roadblock in a task you are doing and all of the ways you were taught, don’t exactly solve the issue? What do you do?

Repetition helps retention.

Grows the imagination, allows children to “think outside of the box”

Such skills include visual-spatial abilities, reflection, self-criticism, and the willingness to experiment and learn from mistakes. All are important to numerous careers, but are widely ignored by today's standardized tests.

Those who have learned the lessons of the arts, however - how to see new patterns, how to learn from mistakes, and how to envision solutions - are the ones likely to come up with the novel answers needed most for the future.

<http://archive.boston.com/news/globe/ideas/articles/2007/09/02/art_for_our_sake/?page=full>