

The Arts in STEM

Live Session 1 Summary

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The live session begins with the question of, "What value do you see in students learning and engaging in art?" I like how Christi mentioned how art connects both sides of the brain in learning which can help with retention. I also like how Erica mentioned multiple intelligences and allows students to express themselves in different ways. Jessica brought up a great point about breaking gender biases between boys and girls. I teach in a non co-ed private school and I teach both boys classes and girls classes (separately). I see vast differences in how boys and girls express themselves in the arts, yet they seem to enjoy the arts equally, just in different ways.

I agree that many students who are bright struggle with standardized testing. There are many gifted and talented students who don't get recognized because their abilities are "outside the box." In the video about valedictorians, I thought it brought up a good point about how "Schools reward students for doing what their told." This truly represents a flaw in our education system, as we want to prepare our students to be problem solvers to be able to tackle real life situations.

The arts can help students learn in many ways. The arts can help improve long term memory, and aides cognitive growth. The arts is also a great way to engage students. When you asked the class, "How many of you would classify yourselves artists?" I do consider myself an artist. Although I don't really have time to do fine art as a hobby, but I do have a lot of art hanging in my home that I created in my younger years. I did start out my career as an art therapy major, and enjoyed taking fine arts classes.

Often people label themselves. It is common to hear people say, "But I'm not an artists..." As teachers, it's our job to help our students feel comfortable exploring different areas of interest, and not label students. As teachers we have to be careful about the subconscious messages we send our students, often unintentionally. Disclaimers can send a harmful

message, when we label ourselves we send a message to our students that they too should create labels for themselves, which is limiting.

The arts, teaches kids to be okay with “flops” and allows them to take risks and be okay with things not always coming out how we expected. The creative process is messy.

I really related to your statement about being labeled as an artists. I too feel like I was encouraged to pursue the arts because it was a natural talent I had, but I always loved science.

I do think people who are very creative are often labeled as “flakey” or not as “intellectual.”

I found the arts standards that you shared helpful as a guide for quantifying goals. It can be very challenging to assess the arts, and the framework is a helpful way to create a structured assessments. I was fascinated to see how the math standards share many common themes with the arts and both involve creative thinking. They both incorporate the skills of “imagine,” “investigate,” “construct,” and “reflect.” This also reminded me of the NASA Engineering Design Process that uses the stages of “ask,” “imagine,” “plan,” “create,” and “improve.” The EDP also taps into creative thinking as well as mathematical thinking, where both sides of the brain are integrated.

There are many ways to integrate the Arts using NASA resources. When looking at the NASA image for Art and the Cosmic Connection, the words “texture” and “overlapping” came to mind. I guessed the planet Mercury too! I think my students would be curious about what the circles are and how they got there. I look forward to looking into the NASA JPL arts resources. The space school musical looks great too! There are many students who are talented actors and dancers as well! The Cassinni mission is a great example of how artists can help scientists visualize what is happening in space when it cannot be captured on video. In past years I’ve showed my class a digital recreation of the Mars Curiosity landing and they were fascinated to learn that the video was actually created by a digital artists! It is great for students to see that

there are actually many technical art careers that overlap with the sciences as well. Thanks for the informative live session, I look forward to learning more ways to incorporate the arts into my STEAM classes!