

## **MBUSD’s Position on the Role and Importance of Arts Education In Our Public Schools**

MBUSD has defined arts education as core to learning and critical to a well-rounded educational experience.<sup>1</sup> The District is committed to “making the arts an important part of each student’s academic career.” (MBUSD Arts Plan, approved by the Board on 5/17/07).

The Plan explicitly states: “The Board believes that *a comprehensive arts education program should be an integral part of the basic education offered to all students in all grades.*” In reaching that conclusion, the Board enumerated the following “Guiding Principles” about Arts Education:

- The arts teach a common core of knowledge that will help students appreciate and understand human history, develop higher order thinking skills, express their own creativity, and develop a lifelong appreciation of the arts.
- The arts reflect and shape cultures, encourage people to exchange diverse views, promote cultural understanding and build healthy communities. The arts prepare students to confidently interact in their world with empathy, joy and a sense of fulfillment.
- A complete education, which emphasizes deep understanding of multiple subjects and disciplines, includes a comprehensive education in the arts.”
- Student achievement in non-arts subjects is heightened in schools with high quality arts education programs, especially in mathematics and reading.
- Students involved in the arts have been found to be motivated to learn more than those not involved in the arts, and tend to collaborate more with fellow students in a broad range of learning activities.
- Arts activities encourage students to seek multiple interpretations to questions, rather than simple right or wrong answers.

MBUSD participates in the LA County Arts Education Collective. In October 2020, the LA County Board of Supervisors formally adopted the Arts Education Collective’s *Blueprint for Arts Education*, which includes the following declarations (among others):

- “Every student has the right to fully develop their creative, artistic and aesthetic potential, as well as the right to special protection from policies and practices that exclude or preclude certain students or populations from equitable access to powerful and coherent arts learning.”
- “Every student has the right to be brought up in school and community environments that value and protect the arts as essential to the full development of each student and that demonstrate those values/beliefs in their public policies and practices.”

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