

ARTS IN EDUCATION

The Arts are an important part of education. Arts' programs promote self-esteem, open the horizons of the creative mind, and enhance scholastic skills. As a result, students' lives are enriched and their visual and auditory skills strengthened. Student's abilities in reading, writing and arithmetic are increased. Arts' programs boost students' success with technology because information processing in most new technologies is based on graphic and visual understanding. Exposure to the Arts increases sensitivity to the emotions and needs of other human beings. Arts also increase positive self-esteem and affect who we become as adults. Dance, theater, voice, playing an instrument, story telling, visual arts creation, writing and photography - all help a child build confidence and add joy to the learning experience.

Georgia PTA Arts in Education Programs are available to help develop your students' minds. Encourage your school to participate in these programs: *Cultural Arts Programs*, *National PTA Reflections Program*, and *National PTA Reflections Theme Search*. PTAs also may apply for the *National PTA Reflections Grant* to supplement Arts funding at your school.

BENEFITS OF ARTS EDUCATION

The arts contribute to understanding among different peoples, helping students to learn about other cultures by studying their art, music, dance and legends. The Arts enhance learning in other subjects, such as math, science, geography, language and history by reinforcing ideas and expanding concepts taught. Art enhancement has helped children become better learners by helping them analyze, interpret and work hard to complete a goal. Over the years, evidence for the educational value of the arts has grown steadily. High school students, for example, who study at least one of the arts – theater, visual arts, dance, or music - **score about 40 points higher on the verbal and math sections of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** than other students. Some schools use Arts methods to assess students' academic performance and determine the level of achievement beyond standard written tests.

ARTS ADVOCACY

As community leaders, PTA members can make a difference in children's education by encouraging adequate funding for better Arts education. Each child should have opportunities in the Arts, regardless of the school he or she attends. Parents can contact their legislators, boards of education, superintendents and principals to promote Arts education as part of the curriculum.

Parents also can encourage their students' growth in the Arts. Study and talk about the history of a special work of art—a quilt, a piece of pottery, or a painting – enhance their learning experience. One of the best ways to get your child excited about art is to be enthusiastic yourself.

ARTS CHAIRPERSON

The Arts Chairperson should:

- Improve communication among parents, teachers, students and the community through cultural arts events. Email is a great way to keep parents informed.
- Plan an arts activity for PTA meeting. Use parents, teachers, students and community resources in a variety of ways.
- Encourage participation in the National PTA "Reflections" Program.
- Suggest home projects for family fun with arts and crafts.
- Encourage parents to assist the school with field trips.

- Sponsor community projects that will help people gain an understanding and appreciation of other lands, people and their cultural arts.
- Encourage participation in library story-telling hours, music groups or art classes.
- Write articles for the PTA newspaper and other community publications.
- Support the various Georgia PTA Arts Programs by making a monetary donation.
- Confer with the Parent Involvement Chair to ensure the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement are implemented in every Arts program/project/event.

ARTS COMMITTEE

The committee should include parents, administrators, teachers and students. Questionnaires can help provide valuable information to guide the program. Teachers may suggest an area of curriculum that the Arts can enhance, and may suggest the best time of year for certain activities.

Chairperson/Committee Planning

- Develop a plan of work in writing.
- The plan of work must be approved by PTA/PTSA Board of Directors.
- Consider PTA/PTSA budget when planning. A committee budget should be submitted as part of the plan. As the year progresses, check with the Treasurer or Budget Committee to verify the remainder of the plan can be afforded. Encourage donations to support Georgia PTA Arts Programs.
- Communicate to all parties involved to create a clear understanding of who has each responsibility. Reminders, posters, announcements, bulletin boards, and flyers are helpful.
- Double check with everyone involved.
- Thank you notes are appreciated.
- Take photographs of events for your PTA scrapbook, newsletter, newspapers, bulletin boards, and to include in your committee priority report due the last business day in February.
- Notify the press three weeks prior to any event or submit information yourself. Include a summary of the program; the time, location, and a map to your school; the name and phone number of the principal and PTA person handling the program.
- Keep a procedure book with copies of work to pass on to the next chairperson.
- Your budget needs to include the prices paid for items plus any donated items received with an estimate of their value to give you a true estimate of what it costs to conduct your program.

ARTS PROGRAMS

Many PTA/PTSAs plan programs involving several weeks or months of hosting a guest artist for the school (a residency). Some programs feature one school-wide project (e.g., creating a metal sculpture in a garden) or programs for different groups (e.g., the puppet-making for kindergarten, painting for first grade). The **Georgia Council for the Arts** (404-685-2787 - website www.gaarts.org) and **Young Audiences of Atlanta** (404-589-0644 - website www.ya-atlanta.org) are two organizations that provide matching funds for Arts in Education Residencies.

Performances, historical presentations and Arts in Education (residency) programs can spark a student's interest and provide a valuable learning experience as well as entertainment. These programs may be some children's only exposure to live performance.

Guidelines for Visiting Artists

- Have the program approved by the principal and PTA president. Include all details: times, dates, schedule of classes, etc.
- Ensure space in the school is reserved.
- If the program requires student travel, ensure written approval is received from the appropriate school official. Have a written agreement about buses. Permission slips signed by a parent are a must.
- Agreements with an artist must be in writing and approved by the President. This should include dates, times, fees, travel arrangements, consequences of cancellation, materials or equipment needed (room set up, tables, and microphones), the method and time of payment, and the size of audience and number of performances.
- Ensure the program is age appropriate.
- Give map or directions to your school to the visiting artist.
- Double check with the artist a few days before program. Make sure your school is still on their schedule. Call.
- A few days before the program, contact the principal, school personnel involved, and teachers to remind them of the schedule.
- Check microphone, speakers, and other equipment before the program.
- Have a member of the PTA/PTSA greet the artist, offer refreshments, provide a tour of the school and introduce them to your schools audience.
- Send thank you notes to all involved.

GEORGIA PTA ARTS PROGRAMS

Go to www.georgiapta.org to download application forms and other Arts in Education brochures, including “Georgia PTA Arts in Education Program” and “Participation in Arts Increases Student Achievement.”

You can also find the National PTA Reflections resources online – all of which are available to help further Arts in Education in our schools and keep parents aware of the benefits and programs available in the Arts.