



## GENERAL WILLIAM MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL

Mitchell Pride:  
Be Safe Be Respectful  
Be Responsible

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February 13, 2017

I would like to voice my strongest support for not only including the Arts in K-12 education in Colorado, but to focus upon the Arts in struggling schools. As an educator and educational leader for the last 18 years I have personally witness the power of the Arts to engage and inspire students. The significance of intrinsic motivation in the success of any student is paramount; however, when one considers the obstacles many Colorado students face each morning such as poverty, domestic violence, and the absence of parental involvement the arts are often salvation.

Research across the nation is clear- the arts can be pivotal in turning around performance in schools. One only has to look at the model in Denver Public Schools to see this first hand in Colorado. Administrators who embrace and focus upon the Arts are rare due to the traditional thinking which makes the Arts the first program to be cut when scores drop. Legislation and a stronger Arts voice are necessary if Colorado is to capitalize on the magical power of the arts to inspire and transform. Mathematics has seen no notable change in overall state wide performance despite the million sof dollars worth of programs and textbooks purchased in desperation by district trying hard to make enough ground to avoid negative attention. The short sighted program and textbook fix doesn't address the motivation, commitment, and abstract connections necessary for all students to have the proper mindset to enter the language of mathematics. Turn Around schools who have embraced music education for all students have seen more growth and sustained achievement than all the programs and textbooks combined have produced.

I encourage you to do the research, consider the power and simplicity of the arts in K-12 education and make purposeful decisions to release the inspiration, creativity, collaboration, and motivation the Arts have to offer to Colorado students.

Sincerely,

Jerry R. Monks  
Mitchell High School Administrator

5/12/20  
bullet  
2 things, early childhood, arts

Testing has impacted course offerings. Arts decreased.

No punishment only reward

Jeff