

#47

COMPLETE

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Q1 Which of these arts did you have as part of your K-12 education? **Music,**
Visual Arts

Q2 How did learning in the arts impact your education and life after high school??

I am a guitarist and vocalist, and took these gifts to heart after high school and I continue to cherish them today. During college I performed in bands and I currently play and sign at my parish in Kirkland.

Music, like other arts, expands the mind and the soul and helps us to 'feel' life and its many dimensions. It can help us to find better ways to experience and think about our world. The arts develops other areas of the brain and soul that other disciplines of education don't or can't necessarily reach in the same way.

Music has always played a big role in my life. It bring me joy, emotional expression, escapism, peace. Music and other fine arts have simply made life more joyful and interesting.

Q3 How would you describe the current status of arts education in your district? What's good, and where is there room for improvement?The arts (dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts) are a core subject in our state definition of basic education, and in federal law.(1) However, the reality is that many schools are not providing adequate arts instruction.(2)

I would describe the arts education in the Northshore School District as fairly robust in it offerings. Music programs and drama/theatre are very successful in both participation and performance.

It seems to me (and I may not be fully informed on this) that dance, media arts, and visual arts need more financial and moral support and promotion.

DO VOTERS KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON ARTS EDUCATION?

Q4 How would you describe your role in ensuring that there is an equitable provision of standards-based arts instruction for all students in your district? What strategies would you use to support this? A well-rounded curriculum is a key part of a high-quality education. However, studies(3) show that over the past decade the arts have been crowded out of the school day.

Standards-based arts instruction does get hit and squeezed out of class offerings with more pressure to focus on STEM. CTE also gets pushed out regular educational offerings.

I think this is a mistake. We are focusing too much on 'career based' paths in learning at the expense of developing and educating young people as 'whole persons,' who can feel, see, and appreciate life and the world through artistic expression.

I will support broader based efforts to include standards based arts instruction at all levels of our educational system. This included more funding and more balanced curriculum that balances STEM, CTE, the Arts.

Q5 How do you see the arts playing a role in student success in your district? Extensive research (4) has shown that arts education increases student engagement. It helps close opportunity gaps, reduces dropout rates, helps more students be college-ready, and develops the creativity needed in the 21st-century workforce.

As I mentioned above, too much focus and stress on STEM creates and imbalanced education system and in turn produces students are not fully formed as creative, empathetic, and open minded people. The research that you've mentioned here supports the need for stronger support and implementation of arts education.

If elected, I would like to see the district take close inventory of arts education at all grade levels and to have a serious discussion of what we need to better serve our students.

Q6 If elected, which of these strategies would you consider for supporting arts education in your district? (Check all that apply)

Research current arts programs and assess needs at district buildings.

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Work for a budget to financially support arts instruction at all schools.

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Utilize arts organizations to support arts instruction and professional development for classroom teachers.

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Find opportunities under ESSA to use federal funds to support arts education.

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Create a local arts education task-force.

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Develop or update a district level arts plan. Outline policies, goals, and strategies for implementing arts education for all students.

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Share research about the benefits of arts learning with colleagues.

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Q7 Please enter your name and school district.

Name

Bob Swain

School District, Position Number

Northshore School District - Position 2
