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COMPLETE

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Q1 Which of these arts did you have as part of your K-12 education?

Dance,

Media Arts,

Music,

Theatre,

Visual Arts,

Other (please specify):

Creative Writing

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

I found that theater and creative writing became outlets for an unathletic girl who, while successful in academics, struggled socially. I found a confidence in my own voice and a place of respite when I needed it. I went on to major in English/Creative Writing at Duke University, where I feel strongly that my early exposure and engagement with the arts gave me the perspective to think holistically and critically about any subject, the strength to pursue my passions and the profound appreciation for beauty that I hold dear to this day.

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)

In our elementary schools, there is reasonably adequate arts instruction, with fairly good exposure to different kinds of arts and a cultivation for appreciation. However, it is siloed as a separate channel of instruction and I feel it could be mainstreamed better into learning.

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.

Although separate specialist instruction in the arts is necessary and critical, greater inclusion in creative arts-driven teaching should also be a part of the approach. I remember putting on a play, including designing costumes, writing music and script and building the set, in my AP European History Class. I still remember details about the French Revolution that I would never have remembered through lecture alone. I would also like to explore creating a performing arts options school in our district to serve as an educational pathway for students with talent and interest that goes beyond the casual.

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.

I think many students would find their confidence, self-efficacy and belief in a future through increased access to and exposure to arts education. In today's world, I also think we need to broaden our inclusion of graphic arts and design and help students identify pathways to success in the arts as a career, rather than just a hobby.

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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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.

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

Christina Wakefield

School District, Position Number

Bainbridge Island, District 5