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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??

A great deal. Music helped me come out of my shell. It helped me build self-esteem, self confidence, and taught me valuable life lessons about team work and perseverance. I went on to become a music educator and currently work as an elementary music teacher.

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 truly believe we need to be teaching and reaching the whole child. We can do that through the arts. Evergreen has amazing music programs throughout the district. There is a huge focus right now on developing digital curriculum, hiring and retaining teachers, and purchasing resources all in the name of STEM. I would love to see that change to STEAM. The arts are a vital part of providing a well-rounded education for our youth. I believe that no one subject deserves all of the attention. Once we start giving equal attention to all our core subjects, we will begin to see progress and growth in all of our public school children.

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.

I think it's a matter of holding our schools accountable to provide a quality education for all students. A quality education includes student access to an equal amount of time for ALL core subjects. It's about stressing the importance of the arts in students' social-emotional development as well as their academic development. It's about teaching the importance of the arts in our schools and in our lives. Time is constantly taken away from the arts in schools because some leaders, decision makers and policy makers think it's frosting...something we can do without. I disagree. The arts is something we need more of in our schools so students have healthy avenues to express themselves. Besides, good luck getting your kids to eat the cake without the frosting.

DO VOTERS KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON ARTS EDUCATION?

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 see the arts as a necessary tool and resource for students to achieve success. So many of our students start falling through the cracks because they never felt like they belonged, or never had a chance to feel successful at something. The arts allows opportunities for our students to shine, to build the confidence they need to take on a new project or go after their goals. It helps them be a part of a team. For our language acquisition learners and our introverts, it helps them make connections where words might fail. Students are able to explore, discover, create, respond, perform, and make connections through the arts. These are life-long skills that students need to be successful in our 21st century workforce.

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.

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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Other Ideas (please specify):

Be an advocate for the arts and share the successes and the positive impact it has had on so many of my own students.

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Q7 Please enter your name and school district.

Name

Megan L Miles

School District, Position Number

Evergreen Public School District pos1