

From MTI.com / Broadway Jr:

Schools are preparing students for success in college and the workforce. A musical production builds life skills through stage skills like these:

- Collaboration: Just as they will need to work in teams in university and the workplace, students in a school musical must work together toward a common goal.
- Perseverance: Determination is a major predictor of academic and career success; your show enforces the discipline and practice necessary to build resilience.
- Empathy: By walking a mile in another's shoes, students expand their horizons and potential.
- Creativity: The 21st century workforce needs innovative thinkers. Quality arts education allows students to see the possibilities in their world.
- Confidence: The leaders of tomorrow must be confident in their decisions and demeanors. By performing in a musical, young people build the self-assurance necessary for success.
- 25,000,000 people who have seen a Broadway Junior® performance.
- 5,000,000 students who have been involved in a Broadway Junior® musical.
- 500,000 educators involved in a Broadway Junior® production.
- 100,000 + Broadway Junior® productions that have taken place in North America.
- 300 sustainable musical theatre programs created by MTI and educational theatre experts, iTheatrics, in under-served schools nationwide.
- 95% retention rates in those schools served by the Broadway Junior® initiation.

From aate.com: The Effects of Theatre Education

DID YOU KNOW ...

- Students involved in drama performance coursework or experience outscored non-arts students on the 2005 SAT by an average of 65 points in the verbal component and 34 points in the math component(1)?
- Drama activities improve reading comprehension, and both verbal and non-verbal communication skills?
- Drama helps to improve school attendance and reduce high school dropout rates(2)?
- A 2005 Harris Poll revealed that 93% of the public believes that arts, including theatre, are vital to a well-rounded education (3)?
- Drama can improve skills and academic performance in children and youth with learning disabilities?
-

DRAMA IMPROVES ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Numerous studies have demonstrated a correlation between drama involvement and academic achievement. In addition to having higher standardized test scores than their peers who do not experience the arts, student who participate in drama often experience improved reading comprehension, maintain better attendance records, and stay generally more engaged in school than their non-arts counterparts. Schools with arts-integrated programs, even in low-income areas, report high academic achievement.

DRAMA STUDENTS OUTPERFORM NON-ARTS PEERS ON SAT TESTS

The College Entrance Examination Board reported student scores from 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2005 using data from the Student Description Questionnaire indicating student involvement in various activities, including the arts. As compared to their peers with no arts coursework or involvement:

- Students involved in drama performance scored an average of 65.5 points higher on the verbal component and 35.5 points higher in the math component of the SAT
- Students who took courses in drama study or appreciation scored, on average, 55 points higher on verbal and 26 points higher on math than their non-arts classmates.
- In 2005, students involved in drama performance outscored the national average SAT score by 35 points on the verbal portion and 24 points on the math section.

ATTENDANCE

Research indicates that involvement in the arts increases student engagement and encourages consistent attendance, and that drop-out rates correlate with student levels of involvement in the arts.

- - Students considered to be at high risk for dropping out of high school cite drama and other arts classes as their motivations for staying in school.

- - Students who participate in the arts are 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance than those who do not.

READING COMPREHENSION

From learning to read to the in-depth study of Shakespearean literature, drama can play a significant role in the continual development of students' reading comprehension skills. Studies indicate that not only do the performance of a story and a number of other drama activities in the classroom contribute to a student's understanding of the work performed, but these experiences also help them to develop a better understanding of other works and of language and expression in general. The results below were gleaned from studies where educators and students alike noticed a difference when drama played a part in their classrooms,

- A series of studies on the arts and education revealed a consistent causal link between performing texts in the classroom and the improvement of a variety of verbal skills, including especially significant increases in story recall and understanding of written material.
- Performance of Shakespeare texts helps to improve students' understanding of other complex texts including science and math material.
- Drama can improve reading skills and comprehension better than other activities, including discussion.

BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM THROUGH DRAMA

In addition to building social and communication skills overall, involvement in drama courses and performance has been shown to improve students' self-esteem as well as their confidence in their academic abilities.

- High school students who are highly involved in drama demonstrate an elevated self-concept over those who are not involved .
- Playwriting original works and dramatic presentation of existing works can help to build the self-esteem and communication skills of high school students.
- The act of performing can help students and youth recognize their potential for success and improve their confidence.

BRIDGING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Since the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act, there has been a national focus on closing the "achievement gap" between students of varying abilities, socioeconomic status, and geographies among other factors that may directly or indirectly affect a student's academic success. The arts, including drama, address this issue by catering to different styles of learning, and engaging students who might not otherwise take significant interest in academics. Additionally, research indicates that drama courses and performance have a particularly positive effect on at-risk youth and students with learning disabilities.

- A study published in Champions of Change (1999) cites theatre arts, including performance, classes, and participation in a drama club, as a source for "gains in reading proficiency, gains in self-concept and motivation, and higher levels of empathy and tolerance towards others" among youth of low socio-economic status .

- Drama activities can improve and help to maintain social and language skills of students with learning disabilities and remedial readers .
- Improvisational drama contributes to improved reading achievement and attitude in disadvantaged students.

PUBLIC OPINION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAMA

What does the average American think of drama? The statistics from the studies below show that most of the public feels the performing arts play a significant role in our culture and communities and are important to America's youth.

In 2002, the Performing Arts Research Coalition (PARC) conducted surveys in 10 major metropolitan areas regarding the role of Performing Arts in their lives and communities . They discovered that at least 90 percent of respondents from each metropolitan area agreed or strongly agreed that the performing arts contribute to the education and development of children. More than 60 percent of respondents in each location who had children aged 13 and older strongly agreed that the performing arts contribute to the education and development of children. On average, just over half of respondents had attended a live theatre performance in the past year. According to the surveys in all 10 cities, live theatre is the most commonly attended type of performance. According to a May 2005 Harris Poll :

- 93 percent of Americans believe that the arts are essential to a complete education
- 79 percent feel that the arts should be a priority in education reform
- 79 percent consider the issues facing arts education to be significant enough to merit their personally taking action.

Related Articles:

The Benefits of Arts Education for K-12 Students by Andrew Warmer

<https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/articles/the-benefits-of-arts-education-for-k-12-students>

How the Performing Arts Benefit Kids by Julia Savacool

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/parent-child/how-performing-arts-benefit-kids.html>

The Benefits of Performing Arts by Rebecca Eanes

<https://www.creativechild.com/articles/view/the-benefits-of-performing-arts>

The Values of Arts Education

<https://www.amacad.org/publication/case-for-arts-education/section/3>

31 Theatre Education Facts

https://schooltheatre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/TIOS_31_Facts.pdf