WHY TEACH THE ARTS?

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One of the most prominent educators who opened our eyes to the importance of teaching the Arts is Howard Gardner. His contribution of Multiple Intelligence has significantly helped educators in understanding the learning capabilities of students better. This, in turn, has resulted to improved learning among students as they are taught in strategies most appropriate for them.

Arts in itself is an interesting subject which many learners enjoy. Even teachers, to their age, enjoy arts and it is mostly used in their profession. In decorating the classroom, in making their reports, in doing making visual aids, and other teaching related activities, art is an essential tool they utilize. More importantly, art can be independently used as teaching tool to assist in other areas or subjects.

The Theory of Multiple Intelligence supports the teaching of the Arts because it touch the other kinds of intelligence that a student can relate to such as linguistic, musical, logical, spatial, kinesthetic, and personal. In Blooms Taxonomy, (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, syntheses, and evaluation), the domains happen automatically. In learning the arts, students are actively engaged and therefore, higher order thinking skills are utilized.

Layacono (1993) stated that “Art education is basic because it extends our language. It enlarges the store of images we use. It makes our understanding discriminating and comprehensive.”
With this inspiration, teaching Arts as independent subject and incorporating it to other subjects can provide a surprisingly bigger room for learning and improving skills, knowledge, and even academic behaviors among students. It has, somehow, a “magic” into it that creates interest and deeper involvement in the lessons presented. Mixing the different forms of art in a lesson, say music and painting, can provide students the atmosphere that is both relaxing and conducive to unperturbed learning. Arts can give students the feeling of ownership and application of what they have learned. With this alone, and with the various studies showing how valuable art is to learning, are reasons enough why art is very crucial to teaching and learning.

References:

