

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, arts education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature, design, and visual arts, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students;

WHEREAS, according to Albert Einstein: “After a certain high level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in esthetics, plasticity, and form. The greatest scientists are artists as well;”

WHEREAS, arts education enables students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express ideas, and cross-cultural understanding, that supports academic success across the curriculum as well as personal growth outside the classroom;

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts sector contributes to the economy and plays an important role in the economic health of communities large and small with direct expenditures of wages and benefits, as well as goods and services;

WHEREAS, to succeed in today’s economy, students must masterfully use words, images, sounds, and movement to communicate;

WHEREAS, the arts equip students with a creative, competitive edge needed to participate in the 21st century economy;

WHEREAS, if schools and communities are delivering high-quality learning opportunities in, through, and about the arts for children, extraordinary results may occur;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that schools with large populations of students in economic poverty can be transferred into vibrant hubs of learning through arts education;

WHEREAS, studies have also found that eighth graders from under-resourced environments who are highly involved in the arts have better grades, less likelihood of dropping out by grade ten, have more positive attitudes about school, and are more likely to go to college;

WHEREAS, attracting and retaining the best teachers is vital and can be achieved by ensuring that schools embrace the arts, becoming havens for creativity and innovation;

WHEREAS, arts education has the power to make students want to learn not just within the arts, but other areas of study; and

WHEREAS, art is integral to the lives of many in our community and can improve the vitality of communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Culpeper County School Board joins Congress in proclaiming September 13-19, 2015 to be “Arts in Education Week” and encourages the community to celebrate, participate in and promote the arts in education throughout Culpeper County.

Adopted this 14th day of September 2015

Anthony S. Brads, Ed.D., Superintendent

Elizabeth S. Hutchins, Chair