

**Online Survey of Arts Parents (Grades 1-12)  
 Final Data  
 Fielding October 20-25, 2008**

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*n=500 Arts Parents*

*n=619 parents who did not meet criteria for Arts Parents; referred to as “Ordinary Parents”*

*Numbers below are percents. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. An asterisk (\*) indicates less than 0.5%; a dash (-) indicates zero.*

QS2. What grade is your child / are your children in?

<u>Arts</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>	
<u>Parents</u>	<u>Parents</u>	
56	52	Elementary
23	25	Middle
22	24	High

Q1. Which type of school does your child attend?

<u>Arts</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>	
<u>Parents</u>	<u>Parents</u>	
84	86	Public
4	5	Parochial
8	5	Private
3	3	Home educated
1	*	Something else

*IF Q1= “home educated”: When answering questions in this survey about your child’s “school”, please think about the curriculum and offerings being provided in the home-education environment.*

Q2-6. How good a job do you think your child’s school is doing on each of the following? Use a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is extremely poor and 10 is excellent.

*(% answering 9 and 10 combined)*

<u>Arts</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>	
<u>Parents</u>	<u>Parents</u>	
56	42	Q2. Teaching basic skills in reading, writing, and math
49	35	Q3. Teaching subjects such as history, science, and literature
56	37	Q4. Providing students with a well-rounded education
48	25	Q5. Making sure students learn the arts – things like music, theater, dance, visual arts
48	28	Q6. Encouraging and developing students’ creativity and imagination

Q7. Schools have many needs and not all of them can be given full attention and funding. Compared to other needs, how high a priority would you give to integrating the arts throughout the learning process – that is, having separate classes in art and music in addition to having the arts – such as music, dance, drawing, poetry, or some other expressions of creativity – as part of the learning experience in all subject areas? Would you give integrating the arts a/an:

<u>Arts</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>	
<u>Parents</u>	<u>Parents</u>	
27	3	Extremely high priority
73	7	High priority
-	72	Middle priority
-	12	Low priority
-	5	Very low priority
-	2	Not sure

Q8. In your opinion, do you think that things like imagination and creativity can be developed only through the arts, or do you think they can be developed through subjects such as history, science, and literature?

<u>Arts</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>	
<u>Parents</u>	<u>Parents</u>	
21	16	Only through the arts
67	67	Through subjects such as history, science, and literature
12	17	Not sure

Q9-12. Here are some possible problems around arts education in the schools. Thinking about your own child's school, please indicate whether you think it is a very serious problem, somewhat serious problem, not too serious problem, or not a problem at all.

	<u>Very</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Arts	9	28	36	
Ordinary	4	22	26	Q9. My child is not getting enough instructional time in the arts at school
Arts	8	22	30	
Ordinary	5	22	26	Q10. My child is not getting enough opportunities at school to be creative and imaginative
Arts	17	30	47	
Ordinary	11	30	41	Q11. Class time spent on the arts is suffering because too much time is spent preparing students for standardized tests
Arts	15	24	38	
Ordinary	10	27	36	Q12. My child's school lacks the financial resources needed to integrate the arts into the curriculum the way they should be

Q13. Here is a list of arts-related activities. Please mark the ones that you have done in the past 2 years or so.

<u>Arts</u>	<u>Ordinary</u>	
<u>Parents</u>	<u>Parents</u>	
73	48	Attended a musical performance with your child/ren, such as a symphony, opera, rock or jazz performance?
73	49	Attended a theatrical performance with your child/ren, such as a play or musical?
37	20	Attended a dance performance with your child/ren, such as a ballet or some other style of dance?
86	71	Done any drawing, painting, pottery, photography, or other arts or crafts projects with your child/ren?
82	68	Taken your child/ren to visit a museum, gallery, or art exhibit?
51	38	Taken your child/ren to visit a monument or building known for its architecture such as the Empire State Building or the White House?
47	27	Enrolled your child/ren in a music or art program or lessons outside of the school day?
41	26	Personally played a musical instrument, sung in a group or choir, or taken part in a dance or theatrical performance – either with your child/ren or just for yourself?
56	36	Made a considerable investment in art equipment or materials – such as the purchase of a musical instrument – for yourself or your child/ren?
24	10	Participated as a volunteer or board member or served in some other way at an arts organization in your community or at your child/ren's school?

[From this point on, only Arts Parents (n=500) are included in the survey.]

Q14. Which of these comes CLOSEST to describing your reason for participating in arts-related activities with your child/ren? Please pick the reason that comes CLOSEST to your own view, even if it's not 100% perfect.

63	It's a fun and enjoyable way to spend time with my child
16	My child has a special gift or talent that I want to develop
6	The school is doing too little, so as a parent I have to take up the slack
13	The school has adequate arts offerings, but I want my child to have more and better options
2	None of the above
1	Not sure

Q15-23. Here is a list of statements about the importance of integrating the arts throughout the learning process in the schools. Please indicate how convincing each statement is to you on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is not convincing at all and 10 is extremely convincing.

9	10	9+10	
16	21	37	Q15. Arts learning better prepares students for 21 <sup>st</sup> century jobs
22	38	60	Q16. Participating in the arts improves learning
20	44	64	Q17. Integrating the arts into the curriculum makes school more engaging for kids
24	47	71	Q18. Participating in the arts helps students to become more well-rounded
23	45	68	Q19. Participating in the arts nurtures the development of whole child
23	41	64	Q20. Participating in the arts makes school more fun for kids
18	25	43	Q21. Participating in the arts improves student test scores
17	22	39	Q22. By integrating arts into the curriculum, more students will enjoy school so drop-out rates will fall
20	41	61	Q23. Arts learning is so important for children, we just can't afford to lose it in the schools

Q24-27. When you think about what it would take for a school to provide a high quality education for your own child/ren, how much of a priority would you give each of the following?

Extremely

High	High	Total	
21	59	80	Q24. The quality of the arts curriculum and the school's commitment to the arts
45	42	87	Q25. The school's academic reputation
23	53	76	Q26. Other things the school has to offer, such as the library, the sports program, the building and its surroundings
40	43	83	Q27. The school's ability to work with a child's unique talents or special needs

Q28. Here are four terms that could be used to describe a parent who is passionate about the arts and committed to making sure arts integration is a priority for their own child's school experience. Which ONE do you think best describes this type of parent?

14	Arts Smart Parent
14	Arts Active Parent
36	Parent for the Arts
26	Arts Advocate Parent
5	None of these / Something else
4	Not sure

Q29. Please mark the statements that you feel accurately describe you.

56	I am a lover of the arts
3	I personally have little interest in the arts
26	I consider myself to be an artist or a musician
27	I really don't have any artistic or musical abilities of my own
40	The arts were an important part of family life during my own childhood
32	My parents really didn't pay too much attention to my arts education
55	I want my children to be exposed to the arts <i>mainly</i> because it will be good for their future
23	As a parent, I see the arts more as something <i>fun</i> rather than as a learning experience
70	For my child to get a high quality education, I consider arts learning to be absolutely essential
1	None of these accurately describe me

Q30-34. Earlier you indicated that it is [an extremely high priority OR a high priority] to you that the arts be integrated throughout the learning process in the schools. Please indicate how likely you would be to take each of the following actions to make sure the arts would be integrated at your own child's school.

Very Likely	Some-what	Total	
15	45	60	Q30. Join a parent group devoted to arts learning
28	48	77	Q31. Make a financial donation to school's arts program or to something like "Band Boosters"
41	46	87	Q32. Attend a meeting about the school's art curriculum and priorities
25	43	68	Q33. Write a letter to the principal or school board advocating for an arts-related idea or issue
47	42	89	Q34. Vote for a candidate for elected office who advocates for a strong commitment to arts education in the schools

Q35. Since your child has been in their current school, has there been a time when you contacted the school directly to discuss some aspect of arts education? Maybe to ask a question, offer a compliment, or lodge a complaint?

- 29 Yes, there has been a time
- 71 No, there has not

Q36. Is your [INSERT 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>] grader a girl or a boy?

- 49 Girl
- 51 Boy

Q37. What is the highest level of school you have completed?

- 1 Less than high school
- 6 High school graduate
- 35 Some college/Technical school
- 37 4 year degree
- 21 Graduate degree

Q38. Which best describes your race/ethnicity?

- 4 African American or black
- 88 White
- 4 Hispanic
- 3 Asian
- 2 Mixed / Something else

Q39. Which of these general categories best describes your household income in 2007?

- 2 Less than \$25,000
- 19 \$25,000 to less than \$50,000
- 22 \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
- 23 \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
- 33 \$100,000 or more

Q40. How old are you? [41.5=average]

- 20 25-34
- 66 35-49
- 14 50-66

Q41. Are you currently registered to vote, or not?

- 95 Yes
- 5 No

Q42. How likely are you to vote in the 2008 elections for President and other offices? (n=477)

- 94 Almost certain to vote
- 5 Will probably vote
- 2 Chances are about 50-50 / Probably not going to vote / Definitely not going to vote

Q43. Do you consider yourself to be a:

- 31 Democrat
- 34 Republican
- 26 Independent
- 8 Something else

Q44. Are you:

- 47 Male
- 53 Female