Integrating the Arts

I believe integrating the arts into the curriculum is highly important. The article given to us earlier in the year, Education Secretary John King: It's Time To Stop Ignoring The arts and Sciences, states, "There is a lot of reason to believe that students are not getting the instruction in science, social studies, the arts, and world languages that they need," (Klein). There is something missing in the general curriculum that shows in the tests given to the students. The students need more arts: as in theater, music, dance, and art into their curriculum, "Arts Integration is an approach to teaching in which students construct and demonstrate understanding through an art form. Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area and meets evolving objectives in both," (The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts). In the "How We Learn: The Percentage (%) of Information That We Retain When We" sheet tells us that we learn the most by SHARING (95%), the second most by EXPERIENCE (80%), and the third most by DISCUSSION (70%) (Glasser). Therefore, we need to use those three things in our teaching. Integrating the arts includes sharing, experience, and discussion. "A few schools are taking the research to heart, weaving the arts into everything they do and finding that the approach not only boost academic achievement but also promotes creativity, self-confidence and school pride," (Schwartz).

The arts have many strategies that hit the multiple intelligences, which I will use in the classroom. Linguistic strategies include creating audiotapes. Logical-mathematical strategies include conducting experiments. Bodily-kinesthetic strategies include creating a dance or movement sequence, performing a skit or play, and performing a simulation. Spatial strategies include making a videotape or film, create a photo album, and creating a collage. Musical strategies include creating a curriculum song, change the words to a song, and create a musical

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collage. For example, a rock cycle song (Garner). Interpersonal you can work with others to do these different activities and intrapersonal you can work on the activities independently.

How will I use the arts in my teaching? I will use music through music videos mostly, because the students in the mentoring classes I have been in love to hear music videos about things they are learning. Students could also use music through creating a curriculum song, or even performing a lip dub that includes music, theater, and dance. Lip dubs use acting, singing, and dancing. Having a lip dub based off of something you are learning about will deepen the knowledge and understanding for the students. Other ways to integrate theater in the classroom include having the students recreate a storyline through acting out the events taking place in what they are reading or even in something they are learning about in social studies. For dancing, like I mentioned earlier a lip dub would include dancing but students could also use dancing to remember specific information from the classroom. For example, the students could learn the bones in the body by making up a "bone dance". When it comes to art the students can do so many things through coloring, drawing, making collages, etc. The students can draw a picture using shapes for math, draw a picture of their favorite part in a story, or even create their own ending of a story through a picture. You could use all of the arts in math, reading, English, writing, social studies, and science which could help the students immensely.

I will use the arts in the curriculum in my classroom, because it overall helps students learn more efficiently and effectively. The students understand information better when they are learning information in a fun and effective way. We have learned so much about being effective teachers, and integrating the arts into the classroom is one of the ways to teach students effectively. Therefore, I will be using the arts in my classroom to enhance the knowledge of my students.

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