



Election 2018  
School Board Candidate Survey  
Apache Junction Unified

**Braden Biggs**  
Apache Junction Unified School District

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Which of the following art forms do you have personal experience (training and/or participation) in?  
(Check all that apply)

	Instrumental Music
✓	Vocal Music
	Visual Arts
	Dance
✓	Theatre
	Photography
	Creative Writing
	Film

In which arts activities have your children participated in school? (Check all that apply)

	Music
	Theatre
	Visual Arts
	Dance
✓	I have no children.
	Other (please specify)

Until 2017, the Arizona Administrative Code required the teaching of music and visual arts in Arizona K-8 schools. Current policy now requires schools offer two of five artistic disciplines (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and media arts). According to the 2018 Arizona Arts Data Project (based on 2015-16 enrollment), under the previous requirement, only 65 percent of Arizona K-8 students had access to music and arts.

As a school board member, would you support a district policy that requires that all K-8 students in your district have access to at least two of the five disciplines, per the new state administrative code?

Yes

Arts education is important for the development of our youth. Having a creative outlet allows for proper stress management and skill building.

As member of the school board, will you support district-level policies that insure your district schools properly report all data to the Arizona Department of Education about arts education course offerings and student enrollment so that equity and access to arts education can be evaluated and parents are aware of whether their children are receiving a quality arts education?

Yes

Transparency is very important to me and my campaign. Reporting data correctly is valuable to prospective parents.

Would you support a comprehensive district-wide assessment of the degree to which arts education is being offered in your schools, including enrollment, instructional minutes, teacher qualifications, resources and materials, and adequacy of student assessments?

Yes

This is important in all subjects. We need to know the level of quality and level of education we are offering our students. We also need to find out if we are missing anything that they may want.

If elected, will you promote a policy of including arts education stakeholders in the annual required district needs assessment with arts educators appropriately represented on planning teams, etc.?

Yes

Finding ways to support creative artistic outlets is important to me. We need to hear from the experts on how best to do this.

The state A-F Report card for K-8 schools does not currently give a school ANY credit for student achievement in arts education because students often are not evaluated by grades, or “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” measurements. If valid assessments existed, the State Board of Education likely would give credit for student achievement in arts, thereby creating a greater incentive for quality arts education.

As a member of the school board will you promote the adoption of a process to develop valid student assessments of achievement in arts education, based on the Arizona Arts Education Standards?

Yes

I would not only support the adoption of this. I would help to lead the charge.

Currently, the 9-12 A-F school report card only gives credit for student achievement in AP Arts Classes (as part of the College and Career Ready point formula). However, Arizona’s arts standards are sequential with increasing conceptual learning and proficiency to either the junior or senior level. Would you advocate the expansion of the College and Career Ready point formula to include credit for successful completion of study in an arts discipline (e.g., visual arts, theatre, music) to the senior level as is done for other academic and CTE courses?

Yes

Absolutely. Our district struggles with being able to offer these courses. But it is very important to ensure that we provide students a variety of options.

Arts Education advocates are working to develop a Fine Arts Seal -- similar to the Civics and Biliteracy Seals-- to be affixed to the diplomas and noted in transcripts of graduating students with advanced achievement in high school Fine Arts.

If the state adopts the Fine Arts Seal, will you support the adoption of the seal in your school district?

Yes

This would be amazing. How can I help with this? Being a member of the arts community, I can see the benefit of this.

Please take this opportunity to provide any additional comments about your views on arts education in our K-12 schools, or any other education issue you consider a priority as you seek a position on your district school board.

Serving on the board of a youth theatre, I see the need in our schools to offer various forms of artistic education programs in our schools. The arts allow for a creative outlet and stress relief. It is very important for our kids and their future growth.