



Election 2018
School Board Candidate Survey
Canon Elementary

Madeline Bennett
Canon Elementary 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): Ceramics

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

As a retired teacher, parent, and grandparent, I have witnessed how participating in the arts have inspired children to use problem solving, imagination, creativity and thinking outside the box in other areas. The arts can be a reason for students to stay in school & earn a diploma. Art & science go hand in hand. There are many reason why we should have these disciplines in the curriculum, these are but a few.

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

It is the student's rights to have a quality education. It's the law also.

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

I'm in a rural area limited by budget & personnel. I would ask that grants and other funding be made available as I'm sure the district would welcome the help!

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

So the advantages of having the arts can be advocated for & explained.

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

It is great to give arts credit for the overall education of students. If this method promotes the possibility of more arts in the classroom then I'm for it.

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

So that art education is taken seriously!

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?

I am a candidate in a K-8 district only.

Great idea!

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.

The arts refine schools in observation, evaluation, analysis, and problem solving, which reinforces ability in science and math. Arts are a vehicle to generate enthusiasm in these disciplines. Enthusiasm can be lacking in many students.