

## Visual Arts and Language Arts Complementary Learning

### **Visual arts can enable students to learn more.**

Schools that invest time and resources in visual arts learning have the potential to increase literacies and social emotional development of all students.

The US Department of Education has compiled data that indicate that visual arts education contributes to learning about visual art—making it and interpreting it—and reading abilities.

Until we are able to break free from a standards driven curriculum that only includes certain subjects we will not be able to mold the minds of those students whose intelligences are not included in these "core subjects." The aspects of visual art alone has been researched as helping students in reading as well as other subject areas. "The best art integration programs are developing a strategy that is helping to close the achievement gap even as it makes schools happier places. These programs' successes demonstrate that this strategy is within reach of most schools, even those in the poorest communities" (Rabkin & Redmond, 2006, p. 63). With the inclusion of other fine arts, sciences and physical education many of those children that are lost can find success and a reason to continue with their educational career.

The Effects of Visual Art Integration On Reading at the Elementary Level: A Review of Literature,  
Kristine A. McCarty, Azusa Pacific University  
[http://www.eric.ed.gov:80/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content\\_storage\\_01/0000019b/80/28/08/1c.pdf](http://www.eric.ed.gov:80/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/28/08/1c.pdf)

With the introduction of the Common Core State Standards, there is clearer alignment in that the literature standards emphasize ideas and examples/details---how a poet or author of a story uses the art of writing to communicate—just as an artist communicates in a painting.

## The ISBE Fine Arts Standards and Common Core Reading Connection

ISBE Fine Arts Standards	<b>Common Core Anchor Reading Standards</b>
<p>25A. Understand the sensory elements, organizational principles and expressive qualities of the arts.</p>	<p>2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.</p> <p>4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.</p> <p>5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger parts of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.</p> <p>6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.</p>
<p>25B. Understand the similarities, distinctions and connections in and among the arts.</p>	<p>7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.</p> <p>9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.</p>

### CONNECT MORE

Visual literacy can enable students to visualize—and understand—social studies and science.

*“Art is the representation, science the explanation, of the same reality.”*  
Herbert Read

The Common Core clearly aligns with the interpretation of literature—the emphasis on ideas and examples, craft and structure, and integration of different representations of the same theme.