

With the higher demands and pressures to score well on standardized tests, the arts have slowly dissipated from schools. Due to this, core subjects have been highlighted more than arts. Arts-based learning is important because it gets your students up, moving, and learning in new ways. Learning the arts involves all students, including those who need special education, because it keeps them stimulated and engaged in what we are learning. In addition, this type of learning incorporates all types of intelligences, in particular, the nine multiple intelligences highlighted in Howard Gardner's work, such as *naturalistic, bodily kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, verbal linguistic, logical mathematics, existential, spatial visual, and musical.*

In our math lesson, we incorporated the mathematical logical students as well as the bodily kinesthetic students by incorporating ballet moves to represent the numbers in the numerator and denominator of the fractions we were working with.

“The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic ... music, dance, painting, and theatre are all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment.”

– William Bennett, US Secretary of Education.