

SmARTS

REPORT CARD #1

“Using the Arts to Supercharge Learning in Stark County Schools.”

Goals

- Create experimental program that integrates arts in curriculum using artists in residence to team-teach alongside regular instructors.
- Offer short term grants to as many schools as possible, while running 3- year projects in select schools to collect data.
- Get outside agency to evaluate if arts have “supercharged” learning and dramatically increased state test scores.

Major Funders

American Electric Power (AEP)
The Henry & Louise Timken Foundation
Donors to the Annual Arts Campaign

Summary

To date, we’ve put 55 SmArts projects in 38 Stark County schools for 10,000 kids totaling \$170,000. Most are short term, but in three schools we are running 36 month experiments to gather data. The Stark Educational Partnership is evaluating the results, and here they are for the first year.

1. Jackson Middle School--(Making the Grade: A)
(Jackson Local School District): A test group of 6th graders outperformed a control group at a 95% statistically significant level-- proof that integrating the arts can supercharge learning.
2. Faircrest Memorial Middle School--(Making the Grade: A)
(Canton Local Schools). Reading scores for 6th graders involved in SmArts went up 4% as part of a 3 year objective to increase them by 15%. We’re showing how arts can improve learning over time with the same group of students.
3. Gorrell Elementary--(Making the Grade: A)
(Massillon City Schools). Goal was to increase 4th grade reading scores by 5%. Those scores actually went up 11%. In addition, while 4th grade writing scores in Massillon in general went up 2%---at Gorrell they skyrocketed by 23%---more than a 1,000 percent increase. We’re demonstrating the power of arts to increase test scores.

55 Projects. 38 Schools. 10,000 Kids. **\$170,000**

Making the Grade



Objective:

- Find outside agency to evaluate results
- Run 3- year projects in selected schools
- Create experimental arts integration program
- Get programs to as many schools as possible

Results (to date)

Stark County Educational Partnership
Canton Local, Jackson, & Massillon experiments have begun
SmArts established. Good beginning.
10,000 kids in 55 projects= \$170,000

Grade

A
B
C
B