

## **Arts in Education, and Welcome to a New Education Newsletter**

*by Nicole Adrian*

This issue of the *Education Brief*—now *ASQ Primary and Secondary Brief*—switches gears from the last issue on science, technology, engineering and math careers and focuses on the more right-brained school curriculum: the arts.

Arts education, including visual and performing arts, is a vital part of K-12 curriculum. Access to these areas provides opportunities students might not be exposed to. Often, entirely new paths can—and frequently do—open up.

Simple exposure to singing, musical instruments or fine arts can help students grow as individuals and learners. These experiences spark creativity and promote self-confidence.

Unfortunately, the arts are often on the chopping block as school districts look to cut budgets. In his article, “Arts Education Helps Increase Test Scores, Student Involvement,” John Albright, public information officer for Colorado’s Adams County School District 14, describes how his district was forced to cut art and music programs. Fortunately, district leaders—and the community—later recognized the need to restore these fundamental programs, and a year later, the programs have blossomed.

The other articles describe how particular districts are using arts in education, and how they’ve helped students. Other articles describe specific programs—like SmART Schools and Thriving Minds—that are available to spur on arts education initiatives.

ASQ offers many resources and quality tools to help creative minds. One resource is the handy pocket guide, *The Creativity Tools Memory Jogger*. This book, which would literally fit in your pocket, offers advice on using quality tools for creativity and putting the tools into context. Some of the tools mentioned include brainstorming, mind mapping and the plan-do-check-act cycle. Information on these tools can be found on ASQ’s tools website, [www.asq.org/learn-about-quality/quality-tools.html](http://www.asq.org/learn-about-quality/quality-tools.html).

As evidenced by the five articles, arts education should continue to be a vital part of K-12 curriculum to help students grow and learn in ways other subjects can’t. Hopefully, district leaders will also continue to see it that way, too.

### **A new and improved newsletter**

You might have noticed that this issue of *ASQ Primary and Secondary Brief* looks a little different than *Education Brief* did. As you might recall from my May column,

the newsletter will now be divided into two separate issues: one focusing on K-12—or primary and secondary, as it's more frequently called around the world—issues and trends and the other focusing entirely on higher education. The goal is to give each reader even more information pertinent to his or her particular area of interest.

*ASQ Primary and Secondary Brief* will arrive in your inbox bi-monthly, and *ASQ Higher Education Brief* will go to readers during the opposite months. Continue to watch for excellent articles, resources, conferences, training courses and ASQ news in each issue.

As always, we'd love to hear what you think about the new format. Is the information relevant? Are the articles applicable to you? What else would you like to see—or not see? Are you interested in contributing to a future issue? Please feel free to contact me at [nadrian@asq.org](mailto:nadrian@asq.org).