10 Things Every Teacher Should Know About Arts Integration

1. Quality art instruction should not be sacrificed when integrating art into other disciplines. Lessons that correspond with other classes should maintain artistic integrity while promoting creativity, arts appreciation, art history, and aesthetic development.

2. Integrating arts into the curriculum of other subjects can take on many forms. Integrated instruction includes art lessons taught in the standard classroom. Correlated instruction sets aside designated time for art lessons that correspond with other subjects.

3. Arts integration can utilize the expertise of multiple educators to deepen student’s understanding of a subject. Integrating art into other disciplines requires collaboration between educators and their shared knowledge combined with the hands-on practice of art making allows students to absorb information in new ways.

4. Arts integration does not always need two teachers. Art teachers can integrate concepts from other subjects, in their classrooms, without collaborating with other teachers.

5. Arts integration can empower and encourage students to become active participants in their education. Through studio art practices, students will engage in lessons and achieve more in their classes.

6. Arts integration helps to reinforce concepts in different ways. Students will receive information in more than one way, which allows for success in all types of students.

7. Arts integration builds connections with other subjects. Students work on analytical and problem solving skills that will help them in other areas of study.

8. To successfully implement arts integration, collaborating teachers need time to plan. Teachers will need to find time to collaboratively design lessons that effectively incorporate visual arts into other subject areas.

9. All participants in a collaborative environment need to be open to working with other content areas. Educators need to see past the issue of time and look towards the best interests of their students, making room to collaborate in a mutually beneficial way.

10. Art educators need to advocate for arts integration in their schools. Art educators should be a part of curriculum writing teams and actively pursue integration opportunities with other educators.

References
