Dear Administrator,

As an educator, providing a “well-rounded education” is my mission and that now includes the arts (ESSA, 2015). Schools and teachers play an essential role in providing equal access to cultural institutions and the meaningful cultural experiences they produce (Greene, Erickson, Watson and Beck, 2017.) Exposure to the arts within schools, however, has been decreasing and U.S. schools are facilitating fewer visits to cultural institutions (Kisida, Greene and Bowen, 2014). Arts education enhances many vital skills and qualities within students and, for many, is the hook that keeps them in school (Kisida, Greene and Bowen, 2014).
We argue that arts education:

* Increases academics through the transfer of skills learned from the arts, such as creativity, collaboration, problem-solving and critical thinking to learning in other academic areas;
* Broadens understanding and appreciation of other cultures and histories;
* Supports social and emotional development by increasing self-confidence, building empathy and reducing intolerance;
* Improves school engagement and culture;
* Increases student motivation and engagement, including improved attendance, persistence, and heightened educational aspirations;
* Enhances socioemotional skills valued in relationships, the workplace, and education settings;
* And it strengthens community and civic engagement.

(Brown, 2017; President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, 2011).

Arts experiences expand students’ cultural capital in the world. With concerns about learning loss and social and emotional well-being, ensuring access to arts experiences will broaden their understanding of abstract academic concepts and give students personal experience as an anchor for this knowledge.

Therefore, I would like to take students on an Act One field trip. Act One is a statewide nonprofit whose mission is access to the arts for Arizona’s Title I students. They provide arts and culture in-person and VR field trips at no or low cost to our schools. Visit act1az.org for more information.

Sincerely,