

Looking Back: the Impact of Arts Learning

- ***Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement***

Arts participation and SAT scores co-vary—that is, they tend to increase linearly: the more arts classes, the higher the scores. This relationship is illustrated in the 2005 results shown below. Notably, students who took four years of arts coursework outperformed their peers who had one half-year or less of arts coursework by 58 points on the verbal portion and 38 points on the math portion of the SAT.

Arts Course-taking Patterns and SAT Scores, 2005		
	VERBAL	MATH
4+ years arts	534	540
4 years	543	541
3 years	514	516
2 years	508	517
1 year	501	515
1/2 year or less	485	502
Average for All SAT Test Takers	508	520

Source: 2005 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report, The College Board, 2005, Table 3-3; SAT Scores of Students Who Study the Arts: What We Can and Cannot Conclude about the Association, Kathryn Vaughn and Ellen Winner (Fall 2000).