

Art, drama, and music were once taught in our schools along side reading, writing, history, and math. Sadly, not having access to the arts in school means many kids stop using the incredible power of their imaginations.

Thankfully, many kids now benefit from having ArtsinStark's "SmArts" programs in their schools. SmArts is super-charging learning through integrating arts with academics. SmArts kids take an active role in their own learning --- developing creative thinking and problem solving skills. When classroom teachers and teaching artists work together, kids get curious, learning gets exciting, and test scores skyrocket!

Transformations are happening all across Stark and Summit Counties as kids are learning through the arts. A little girl named "Beautiful" is just one example. Before the ArtsinStark teaching artist came to Mrs. Branks' 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Allen Elementary classroom, Beautiful had a very difficult time understanding her own personal spatial boundaries. In addition to teaching specific math Ohio Curriculum Standards, teaching artist Kris Kiko-Cozy teaches art, music, movement, and many soft skills to Mrs. Branks' students. During circle time, Beautiful seldom maintained her own spot, and was regularly disrupting lessons by invading classmates' personal space.

After regretfully needing to watch one of Mrs. Kiko-Cozy's early sessions from the sidelines, Beautiful worked very hard on her spatial challenges. After just a few weeks, Beautiful truly earned her place in the circle with her classmates. She made tremendous progress in both her math skills and her self control. It is remarkable that each student learns what they most need to learn when arts is integrated into academic learning.



Gibbs Elementary teacher Nancy Dunbar says of her teaching artist, Donald Jones: "His experience in art and drama added to the learning experiences for the students in a way that the students will never forget."

Teachers love SmArts! Parents love SmArts! Kids love SmArts!

*Art Changes Lives*

**YOU can too: [ArtsinStark.com/donate](https://www.artsinstark.com/donate)**

