

Arts Awareness and Advocacy

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As we approach the 2008 Legislative Session, the arts leaders are aware that the state financial deficit could have a great impact on community and educational programs. Local representatives and senators have been approached to make them aware of several points that will be discussed during the next session. Some are:

- Protect the dedicated fine arts credit for high school graduation.
- Oppose efforts to require 225 minutes per week for physical education in grades 6-8
- The need to have a middle school fine arts course requirement
- Include the fine arts in any revision of the Sunshine State Standards or World Class Standards

Making contacts and having these discussions are an on-going project for advocacy.

This spring will be the state-wide 4th grade Music Assessment Test. It will be 30 multiple choice questions and will be taken on a voluntary basis. Each county will decide on whether to test their students. The field test showed that the length of time a student had in a music class had great impact on the student success. Times vary from 30 minutes daily to 30 minutes every 16 days. There are, however, some block schedules that allow for several weeks of continuous instruction and a long period of no instruction before returning to a music class.

The Grade 6-8 Music Assessment test has been completed and will undergo a field study this spring. There will be more info to follow.

Submitted by,

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