



Over 1000 VAPA Student Voices

- 01) "I like band because I like playing music but I don't always get the time to play but now I'm in band I can play my favorite instrument every other day. I think the arts are important because music is like another part of your life. It's another way to express your self. A fun memory is when me and my friend Fabian was messing around and we made our own beat but he could never get his note right." - James Mattox, NCMS - 7th grade
- 02) "I like band because I like how we could get any instrument and learn how to play it we may not be good like a professional but we learn and we are able to perform in front of people. I think the arts are important because it's a part of our life and also because whenever we learn things our brains get bigger. What I personally like about band was when we perform for example when we went last semester in the fall to Band Pageant and we saw all those different bands perform." - Alessandra Luevano
- 03) "I like band because at home I am really stressed and always in trouble so at band I play music and I get relaxed playing music and hearing it to. I think the arts is important because art has been going hundreds of years and people still do it like us in band class. What I like about band is that we get to perform for other people in different places." - Kevin Ortiz, NCM 7- grade
- 04) "I like band because I get to play an instrument and I learn something new. I think the arts are important because you can express how you feel while playing. A fun memory is when we went to band pageant and we saw other kids perform." - Salvador Lopez, NCM-7th grade
- 05) "I like band because we had a lot of fun memories past semester for example Band Pageant. I think the arts are important because they are parts of history. What I like about it or a fun memory is that we went to Band Pageant and we go sometimes on Saturday to practice." - Sebastian Gonzalez, NCM-7th Grade
- 06) "I like band because I get to express my feeling through music. I think the arts are important because it's a great class I believe it one of the best classes in the entire school. What I like about band is that we could go to places like Band Pageant and see other people play and learn from them, then play ourselves." Jonathan Joel Contreras, NCM 7th Grade
- 07) "I like band because I like to play instruments. I think the arts are important because with arts you can express yourself. What I like about band is when we went to go places like Band Pageant and I also like that I made new friends." - Carlos Garcia, NCM-7th grade
- 08) "I think band is important because for thousands and thousands of years band has been here and band is something that makes people calm without music the world wouldn't be how it is right at this moment. I like band because although I'm the worst player in the class I have fun trying to play the trumpet. One big memory of band class was when I went to band pageant (practice) I couldn't go to the band pageant but I did go to the practice and if I didn't have band I wouldn't be in a bunch of classes with a bunch of friends from band. One reason it's important to learn band is because one day you might grow up to be in a professional band and earn a lot of money not only that but it's just important there are millions of reasons why it's important." - Gerald Jackson, NCM - 7th grade
- 09) "I like band because I like playing instruments and it helps me say things that I can't really say in words. I think the arts are important because it helps people express themselves as who they want people to see them by. What I like about it is that it helps me concentrate, at least keep calm for a few minutes and to make friends." - Mildred Carrillo

- 10) "I like band because it's very fun and it is nice to play it. When you play your instrument it is another way to express your self. I think the arts are important because they have been for long times like in history and they are really good because you can make anything with art. What I like about it when we went to band pageant and we did not know how to play but it was fun seeing the other bands play." - Manuel Lopez, NCM-7th grade
- 11) "I like band because we can go to different places and I have always wanted to play an instrument. I think the arts are important because it can be fun. What I like about band is that it is really fun I like all the people in my class." - Joseph Hernandez, NCMS-7th grade
- 12) "I like band because I like to be with my friends and because I like to play my first instrument. I think that band is important because you can learn how to play well an instrument. What I like about a fun memory is when we went to the Band Pageant and played in front of people." - Marco Alcantar, NCM-7th grade
- 13) "I like band because it's an opportunity to learn something else besides the basic subjects. I think the arts are important because we can learn different ways to play music that we already know. What I like about it is that it's my favorite class and I like playing the flute." - Alexa Lucero, NCM-7th grade
- 14) "I like band because music is plays an important part in life. I think the arts are important because how would life feel like without music, everything would be plain, dull, and boring.. What I like about band is that we all get to know others who play the same instruments as us, working with them in songs, going to Band Pageant, and making new friends..." - Antonio Rosas, NCM-7th grade
- 15) "I like band because it's a way of expressing yourself in new ways and music is part of life. I think the arts are important because the activities that we do like write about other musicians. The funniest memory in band would be Band Pageant because you talk to other schools and are standing next to them when playing. Also, seeing the high schools play was awesome." - Juan Perez, NCM-7th grade
- 16) "I like band because I had a lot of fun when we went to Band Pageant, and because I like the type of music we are learning. I think the arts are important because it helps a lot of students express themselves. What I like about band is that it's my favorite class because we play our instruments and learn some songs that I like." - Yesenia Salgado, NCM- 7th grade
- 17) "I like band because they teach us things that we don't learn at other classes. I also like it because we learn how to play different instruments and it might be easier to go to college. I think that arts are important because we learn how to play different instruments and that way later on I'll learn how to play an instrument and I'll be able to express my feelings by music or by art. What I like about it is that it's one of my favorite classes and we even went to band pageant and it was really fun watching all the other schools performing." - Alan Garcia NCM-7th grade
- 18) "The arts are important to me because it allows me to be creative and express myself. I am able to create whatever my heart desires and it's pretty amazing that what you thought of can be made into something tangible. Art is also important to me because without it the world will be pretty bland. I can even relate my own experiences to art pieces to create my own meaning of the piece while others can have a different perspective of the artwork. I can also immerse myself into another world that doesn't exist like when we read novels and art can also be used to relieve stress.
- 19) Often, schools don't fund VAPA classes because they put most of their money into STEM classes and sports which is unfair because many students want to excel in that area and maybe get a job in the arts. We also lose our creativity as we get older because of the large focus on the STEM classes instead of VAPA classes. Some people may think that VAPA classes are less important than STEM classes, but in reality the arts are just another form of intelligence and are just as important as the STEM field." - Katie Russell
- 20) "I believe that from the moment you're born you naturally have creativity bursting out of you. Going to school and learning the same thing everyone else is doing and being required to do it the "right way" can limit your mind. This is why I think it is extremely important to have VAPA classes. You can release your biggest imaginations and create things you love into art, whether it be music, photography, drawing, or drama. You can't neglect creativity in a young person, there should be no limitations when it comes to your creative mind." - Valerie Saunders
- 21) "Art is important to me because I get inspired by many artists. I use my imagination. Mostly because my drawing skills get better each time I try." - Joselyn Gonzalez

- 22) "Arts are important to me because you can express yourself in many different ways other than vocally. You can voice your visually, through the Internet, and in music. This is just one reason why arts are important to me, and that is to voice your opinions." - Fernando Gochicoa, Montgomery Middle School
- 23) "Art is important to me because it's fun to draw things and I learn things every day in art too." – Jesus Aviles
- 24) "Arts are not important to me because I don't have an interest toward arts. They don't attract my attention as much as other subjects." – Angel Ramos
- 25) "I am a 7th grader who takes art class at Montgomery Middle School. Art is one of my favorite hobbies to do. To me art isn't just drawing, it's an opportunity to release my creativity. Every time walk into the room I see so many colors around the room. If there was no art at this school, I don't think I would be as creative as I am today." - Anahlia Flores
- 26) "The arts are important to me cause I am not that good at drawing and since I am taking an art class I'm having fun learning to draw and paint with different subjects. The other reason is that I like how me and my friends can find talents that we can show to everyone. We also get a chance to learn new talents that weren't very good at before." - Aaron Moore, Montgomery Middle
- 27) "I don't think art is important I just think people do it for fun. I only think it would be important if you were to get a job in art." - Jason Torres
- 28) "Art is important to me because it is one of the elements ." – Raymundo Vega
- 29) "My name is Victoria Melissa Carcano and I'd like to take a short period of time to explain why I think art is important. Well first off, I'd like to explain why or why not the different forms of art are important. Theater is a very important thing to learn because it gives the actors or viewers different point of view of things, it can change you a lot. It also helps with improv. Improv can help people know what to do in certain situations. Dance and Poetry isn't just something people do for fun, it's more of a passion. Poetry helps you learn how to use proper language or know how to explain things in a beautiful way. Dance is a good hobby to get off of the Internet and to just be your self. Art is a good way to be creative. It gets your mind working. It's more than just fun, it's a challenge."
- 30) "Art is important to me because it shows who you are and because art helps you express your feelings." - Justin Lamsen
- 31) "The arts are important to me because it's a lot of fun because you can get distracted with all your friends and you can also learn new things throughout the year. Another thing why it's important to me is because you can get a choice of art, drama, music/ mariachi, etc. The arts are also important to me and to everyone else is because all the teachers can you how to do stuff or you can show the teachers how much motivation you have in you." - Joceline Gonzalez Montgomery Middle
- 32) "Art is important to me because its something there's no rules for. You can express yourself with no limit and there are endless possibilities of what you can do, draw or make. I'm not amazingly good at drawing or painting but it's something I really look forward to doing every time I go to art class. Drawing and painting is something that makes me feel relaxed and feel creative." - Shelsea Roa
- 33) "The arts are important because they are showing you what they mean and what that are talking about. Another thing why they are important is that it helps you relax and enjoy seeing art and it is so awesome to make the art and seeing it." - Brianna Alvarado, Montgomery Middle
- 34) "Arts are important because many students including me like art class because kids like being able too draw and express them selves. Also it's a way students learn to draw or even helps them start being creative so that's why art class is important." -Marlon Irizar
- 35) "Art is important to me because it's one way to express yourself. There's different kinds of art.. Inspired art, street art, self portrait, etc. some people say that random street art isn't considered as art, but I see it as art because if people really understood art and if they really look closely most street art tell a story of the person who did it.

Anyways art is an important role in my life because it inspires people, it tells a story, and it's just a really good piece added to your life." - Daniela Navarro

- 36) "The arts classes important for us because it's a way to express ourselves. Not only that but it's also a relaxing time from all the hectic schoolwork. Lastly, the arts is important because it's a time to make friends and a time where you can excel your art skills and make beautiful art." - Alexa Reina from Montgomery Middle
- 37) "The arts are important me because they act like a safe haven to me. Dealing with the troubles of high school can get to me. I can get stressed out very easily and there are times where I end up breaking down. But music is always there for me. There's no cost; it's just always there. It alleviates my stress and I am able to calm down. With music and theatre, it has made me a better person. I've met my best friends through the arts, and it strengthened me to become a better performer and student. It gave me self-confidence and worth, and without the arts, I wouldn't be the person I am now." - Kristian Acruz, Olympian High School, Ms. Opdahl
- 38) "The reason that the arts are important to me is because of the fact that it is a stress reliever and also, it helps me try to get some anger out of my system. This helps me so I can become more of an approachable person, also this helps me become a bit nicer to others. This is because of the fact that everyday I get very stressed out and due to singing, or drawing I can get rid of those feelings and feel better. People wonder why I am always so happy, it is because when I sing I get rid of all the negative energy in my body." – Christopher Henry
- 39) "Art is a very important thing to me because you can draw your imagination. Also, you can relax while your drawing. Art is a very important thing to many people. Drawing makes you happy because you draw what you want and you enjoy it while your doing it." - Koraima Bautista, Montgomery Middle
- 40) "The arts are important to me because I can express myself in what I'm doing. I can be myself when I am dancing." - Emeli Knapp
- 41) "The arts to me are a way to artistically or visually express our feelings. The way I feel about the arts is a beautiful feeling, also I feel it is a talent to be artistic. Someone needs to be able to feel in order to be artistic." – Ziara Flores
- 42) "What dance means to me is that I can dance in front of people with other people with me so I can't mess up. Also it is so I can express myself in dance." – Alexis Smith
- 43) "The arts is a place to free myself. I feel open to be able to do what I love the most, which is dancing. I'm glad that I have the opportunity to have a dance organization at my school."
- 44) "The arts are important to me because it gives me a chance to exit the classroom and try new things. Dance means self expression and we don't get a lot of that in high school classes." – Kyianna Sykes
- 45) "Band is important than me, as it gives me more information about the music that I always listen to and how its structured, and the background of how music is made and such.

Band is also important to me because playing the trumpet and learning how to play music is very enjoyable, and I believe it helps me relax and think clearer as well.

As for the other arts, my opinion is that Art (as in drawing) is very important as well, as being able to draw is a very important and useful skill to have, and many (such as myself) have 0 drawing skills. When used as a witness for a court case, you might have to draw the subject, but if you can't draw, then a possible very important case of evidence might be lost.

For another art, such as drama, I think is just useful if you're going into something or a profession that requires acting or getting used to having eyes on you, such as a lawyer or actor.

In my opinion, all the arts are very important, and I think that the school subjects for these should have more money backing and should be encouraged more than they are, as its very easy to just pass off a video that sounds like the people are just being paid or computerized, or to pass over something that says "Band" or "Art" while looking through electives. If possible, the arts should be taught and encouraged more, especially in

elementary schools, to give students a chance to try out more subjects and to grow skills in these areas.” – Aaron Joseph Jones

- 46) “My name is Leslie Ramirez from Montgomery Middle School, in my opinion art is important because it helps you with life, art has been helping me as a way to express my feelings, art is something that can distract you from outside world problems, when you are painting you have to concentrate and in my opinion that helps people distract themselves from problems. In my opinion, art class it's not just a simple class it's a class where you get distracted and peaceful, Thank you for your time!” - Leslie Ramirez
- 47) “I think art is important to me because I personally like to paint and draw I think it makes me be calm because I take my time when I paint. Art also lets me express my self better than any other class I have.” - Azucena Avila
- 48) “I'm here to explain why art is important to me. The main reason is, because art lets me forget about school for just a bit. Makes me enjoy using my imagination and doesn't have to stress me out with numbers or English essays. Art is fun.” – Christian Marin
- 49) “I'm Luis and I'm here to explain why art is important. One reason why art is important to me or to others is because you can get rid of problems you may have with your family or friends. Another reason why art is important because it can also explain what/how your feeling. You can be bored and just draw, color, etc. art can mean a lot to people.” – Luis Diaz Ruano
- 50) “Art is important to me because it is entertaining to do. It makes me happy because I like how it turns out in the end and I like the art because it lets all of my worries drift off.” – Riagg Birdsall
- 51) “Art is important to me because I can relax and get a break from life. When I paint or color or do any other kind of artwork I feel good and get a break from school. I also can express myself and my personality through artwork. “ – Dyanna Perez
- 52) “Art is a way to express your feelings in all different kinds of ways. I believe that art helps our concentration.” - Sierra Van Deusen
- 53) “Art is important to me because it's a form of expression. In art we are able to express our feelings without directly saying them. Dance, art, theater, are some forms of Art, that people use to express themselves. People use the different arts as escapes from the real world. Art is an escape. Don't let them take it away from us.” – Analyssa Lozano
- 54) “I believe that art is important because it is a way to release stress and a way to express your self. It is also takes out the creativity of you. It is a way to spread your message through paintings, sculptures, and drawings.” - Christopher Lopez Lopez
- 55) “The arts are important because first of all with out art it shows you more then history it self it goes in to the story and history with out art who can imagine what she is saying by words. Also it helps you turn of the left side of your brain to use it fully and to imagine and be creative with out getting in to trouble. Besides all this the most important is it lets me for get about the boring classes I had and let me relax and do something exciting.” - Diego Lopez
- 56) “Art is important to me because it is a way to express myself. It's a way for me to have a voice when I don't know how to put something into words. Art keeps me creative and active.
- 57) I'm in art class, so I use creativeness to think of what is the best way to explain what I want to say in a painting? It's like an escape from the real world.
- I dance in color guard and I love how it feels when I'm just dancing around. It's really cool and amazing. So the arts are very important to me.” - Karla Perez
- 58) “The reason why I think art is important to me is because, art can help express people in many different ways! I think it's fun when I draw, it makes me feel relaxed and great! Knowing there's something I'm good at. “ – Vanessa Jauregui

- 59) "I think art is important to me for many reasons. For example without art, people wouldn't be able to express their feelings better. This means that when you are sad and you don't really want to talk about it you can express it through music, dance, or making an art piece. That is the main reason why I think art is important to me." - Samantha Garza, Montgomery Middle School
- 60) "Why art is important to me is because that could help me to make lots of important things for life. Art helps you to visualize what you are thinking. Another thing is that it could make you get out your stressed. And it could help you for university jobs too." - Luis Lopez
- 61) "This is Mark Holtcamp an 8th grader at Montgomery Middle School. I would like to let you know that the art class I'm attending and art in general is important because it opens my creative side and I like it because I learn techniques to be a better artist." - Mark Holtcamp
- 62) "My name is Amina Wright I'm writing to say why art is important to me, one of the reasons why it's important to me that art is my most favorite thing to do so learn more about art and learn to draw better. The second reason is that when I draw I feel confident, I feel like I can do anything. And my last reason is I can create anything with art." - Amina Wright
- 63) "Because the art mean like how you feel about someone doing something to someone and how they feel." – Tuilagi Ah-you
- 64) "The arts are important to me because I have been surrounded by them my entire life. From being a ballerina from a young age to bonding with my mother as she taught me to draw. Also, as I am pursuing Mechanical Engineering for Disney, my career will be heavily impacted by the arts." (G.G. 12th-ELHS)
- 65) "The arts are important to me because not only does it allow me to express myself through dance, music, and drawing, but it serves as an outlet to all the stress that comes with the 'high school experience.' The arts not only help me to cope with many things, but with performance and art it also gives me a chance to discover myself and my interests in more ways than one." (G.A. 9 -ELHS)
- 66) "The arts are important to me because it allows me a way to enjoy freely creating and expressing as I desire, even if there are guidelines to follow."
- 67) (E. C. 12th-ELHS)
- 68) "The arts are important to me because my dream job is to be a conceptual artist for my favorite videogame company Riot Games. I've been playing their game for a few years and have many characters that I would love to pitch for the game. It would be an honor to have my characters played, but to also make cosmetics for some of my favorite characters. I have used their amazing designs to practice and further my art using the wide variety of forms and shapes to practice body and facial variation."(H.G. 11th-ELHS)
- 69) "Although many believe that STEM curriculum should dominate every other subject, the lack of an outlet for creative thinking would cause students to become narrow minded. One of the reasons the US has remained a global superpower is due to the ability of its people, to find creative responses to current issues. If students are not allowed to explore the arts, not only will they be unprepared to overcome obstacles they face, but they will also have such a bigoted mindset that collaboration, a characteristic vital to the success of our country, would not be attainable." (A.S. 12th-ELHS)
- 70) "The arts are important to me because I want to feel like something I do or make will inspire others. I want people to enjoy what I create." (J.K. 11th- ELHS)
- 71) "Growing up I had acted like someone else, what I thought was a better version of myself. Once I hit seventh grade I started acting more like myself, because of the art programs I had available to me. I was given the opportunity to express myself better through the arts." (I.A. 9th –ELHS)
- 72) "To me, art is important because it lets me express myself in ways academics don't. I see it as a fun way to be productive. Art can also say a lot about someone - it just depends on how you interpret it." (A.E. 11th – ELHS)
- 73) "The arts are important to me because they have made such an incredible impact on my life. Without the arts and dance, I wouldn't be the dancer I am today. Before I joined the arts program, I didn't know anything about dance

but now I know two years worth. I've had so many great opportunities to dance in front of friends and family and it's amazing. When I'm in dance class, it helps clear my mind and it makes me a lot happier. Thank you so much for letting me be a part of the arts." – Breana Rico

- 74) "I in particular am very bad at the arts. I know by fact that other kids have the talent for it and care for it greatly. That is why I believe the arts is an important factor or not even education, but life in general. Some people are good at sports and some are at the arts. So, just like sports, keep funding and supplying the sport of art to keep many happy. Thank you! – Julie Parsons
- 75) "Dance is a way for me to express myself and have a lot of fun. Also, I get to learn how to creatively express myself in movements and words. I love to dance and it's something I look forward to at school." – Heather Costa
- 76) "The arts are important to me because they give our school life and energy. Without the arts our school would be boring to the point of extinction. For example at football games, the band and color guard give life to the crowd and "hype" us up but also entertain us as well. Also the arts give students like us a chance to express ourselves and make an impact in our high school career. For instance if we didn't have an awesome choir program at Olympian (bias not intended) then students wouldn't be able to sing the national anthem at assemblies/games and or perform at after school activities. However some say that the arts are pointless and take up an elective but i disagree due to the fact that you learn a lot and get to experience new things and meet new people. In conclusion the arts are important due to its diversity, the way it brings people together, and its overall exciting appeal and without it young musicians wouldn't know how or what to do with themselves for fun." Thank you, Josh Barrera of Olympian High School's Golden Harmonies
- 77) "The arts is important to me because it is an exercise of the body, a relaxation, and it is a chance to express my creativity. Dancing is something great, which gives me the ability to eliminate anything other than dance and express myself." - Vanessa Tapia
- 78) "Arts are important to me because, it helps me develop skills that without the arts are unable too developed. Specifically for me, dance has taught me disciplines that not all the arts have. When I dance, a big effort has to come out of me in order to accomplish a good show or rehearsal. When I dance, I enjoy it and I forget of everything that is stressing me out. Also when I dance it makes me happy because I am doing what I love in a daily basis. All in all, the arts are important to me because without the arts I wouldn't be doing what I love the most and what makes me happy." – Fatima Vargas
- 79) "The arts have always been a way for people to express their emotions through subtle confrontation. Music, theatre, dance, etc. all greatly contribute to expanding imagination and creativity in the world; they allow us to grow and give insight on a person's true emotions and feelings without them having to explain. Dance has taught me to work hard to achieve goals, be open to new ideas, learn to work well with others, and most of all to fully be myself and come out of my shell. Dance has become an important part of my life, and the different arts have that affect on a multitude of people." – Amairany
- 80) "The art program (specifically band) is important to me because it allows me to have a class that I can genuinely and fully look forward to everyday. It gives me a chance to express myself and to have fun doing something I love with people who share in my passion. Band allows me to meet and create deep bonds with people I wouldn't have otherwise met and to build friendships stronger than any others. It has made me realize my love for music and has opened my eyes to new hobbies and even a possible career path in the future in music or music education. The band program makes me excited to come to school and makes all of the work and stress from my academic classes tolerable for the sake of being able to play music with my friends." - Omar Younis (Grade Nine at Olympian High School)
- 81) "The arts are important to me for many reasons. One would be because they make me feel special, like a star, when I'm performing. It also makes me feel like I'm part of something. The way I look at dance is a creative and artistic way to bring different types of people and become one to the music. Not only do the arts make me happy or makes me be around my classmates at school everyday, but it gives me a second family where I feel safe and included. The arts make me believe that I have some creativity in me which I didn't think I had before I joined dance, the arts. I honestly love it." - Lidya Garcia from CVM
- 82) "My name is Emily Rosario, alumni of Eastlake High School Class of 2013. I was on Dance Company from my freshmen through senior year, and it has left a profound impact on my life. It led me to the school I am currently

studying at, California State University, Long Beach, which has one of the top ten dance departments in the country, and I am lucky to be a part of it. If I had to summarize why the arts are important to me in a few sentences (which is nearly impossible) this would be it:

The arts are important to me because of the lasting impact it has left on me and the path I chose to take in my life. I have learned essential life skills through visual and performing arts, such as the importance of teamwork, communication, and overcoming challenges. But more than that, I learned to work hard, trust others, push myself emotionally and physically, and have made friendships that will truly last a lifetime.

I currently am studying both Dance and Business Management and can easily say that the skills dance has taught me have helped me significantly in the business world as well.

My apologies for the long email, I just hold an extremely special place in my heart for the arts, and especially for Eastlake High School's Dance Company. Let me know if I can do anything else to help!"

Best,
Emily Rosario
CSU Long Beach

- 83) "The arts are important to me because it inspires a sense of creativity in each one of us while demonstrating the beauty of human products. We learn, educate, practice, and perform the Arts as a way to express the deepest, most passionate part of ourselves." – Jared Carino, student of Mrs. Opdahl
- 84) "Hello, I'd like to inform you of the importance in the upkeep of the SCPA program. It allows students to develop talents they may have for the rest of their lives. To me personally, the Orchestra and Piano programs have allowed me to further musical talents, but extra funding would go a long way to help others achieve what their maximum potential. Some new pianos, new violins, bigger rooms, etc. These arts, the musical and visual arts allow us to tap into what makes us human. Thanks for your time." – Diallo Jones
- 85) "Dearest Board, I am taking piano at the School of the Performing Arts and I have some things to say about my elective and why I'm taking it. I like learning my favorite songs under the instruction of one of my favorite teachers. Piano lets me express my creativity by talking and speaking through the music I play. I hope future students will be able to enjoy this program as much as I have through the great art courses provided by the district." - From, Anonymous
- 86) "The Arts are important to me, specifically, because it was through music that I learned how to dream big and achieve it. When I was choosing an elective in 7th grade, I remember saying "I don't want to be in band" because I really wanted to join the yearbook team. My parents, of course, persuaded me to join and I just kind of.. Internally groaned. Never would I have thought that I'd end up still joining band in my sophomore year of High School. The two bands I've been in taught me several things: How to effectively lead, how to never give up, and how I always have to try and try until I get to my goal. So, in summary, the reason why the Arts are so important to me is because it taught me some life lessons while teaching me how to show my emotions through my playing at the same time." –P.L.
- 87) "I can express myself through music. It makes me feel good about myself. It's fun and I really enjoy it! That is why it is important to me!" – Isabela Carlton
- 88) "Band is the most funny period we have. It's always nice to have a period of "relaxing" after a long day of math and science. Band also improves our mind, but unlike math, band is quite enjoyable." – Jacob Neiman
- 89) "Vapa is important to me because I really enjoy music and vapa is a way for me to express my self through music and art. Vapa is also a place for people to meet new people and learn about new things." – Aurora Czajkowski
- 90) "The arts are important to me because they are part of me. I have fun in band playing with my friends, practicing at home, and attending concerts in my community. Band is enjoyable and I am glad I have taken a part in it." – Rene Felix
- 91) "During all the stress of school and tests it gives you something to cool off your mind and gives you a sense of accomplishment when you finish something you had trouble with before." – Angelina Dolter

- 92) “The reason band is important to me is because its a way of art and it helps me umderstamd things and think and be able to play what i want to play and play for others.” – Christian Turner
- 93) “Band is important to me because it makes you musically smart. It also teaches you rhythm as well as tone. Band also makes you more open to other instruments.” – Imani Bruso
- 94) “Band is important to me because band helps me relax and gets the stress out of me. Also when i first started band I finally found something to enjoy in school and band helped me get motivated to do good in school so I could play in band.” - William Albro
- 95) “Band is important to me because it has been my favorite class for the past two years I’ve been involved, its super fun. Also it’s an inspiring class. It makes me smile, when we sound better than what’s normally expected of a middle school player. Every day, before band period, it makes me smile, I feel so excited because our class is so unbelievably fun, and inspiring.” – Isabella Sandoval
- 96) “The arts have always played a huge and important role in my life. The arts like choir, drama, band, and dance have been "an escape" to say it in the simplest terms. It continues to help me through the toughest times and it keeps me happy. I have formed a beautiful family with all my friends that share the same passion as me. I don't know where I would be or of I would even be here if I couldn't express my love for music here at Rancho Del Rey Middle. Thank you.” – Student. Advanced Band Percussion
- 97) “The arts are important to me because it was something that allowed me to do what I love in the form of beauty. Hearing the music that I can create makes me proud that I know how to play an instrument. Also it allows me to feel proud that I can contribute to the VAPA organization.” – Jaelynn Sandoval
- 98) “The arts, specifically band, are important to me because music is a big part of my life. Music has always been there for me throughout my life and especially my childhood, and for me to be participating in this band, learning new things about music, and making friends along the way, have made me enjoy the past two years I have been in band greatly, and I plan to continue in band and the visual and performing arts throughout high school.” - Sincerely, Angelina Gonzalez, Rancho Del Rey Middle School
- 99) “Band is important to me because it is really fun to get to play music with my friends and I feel like I'm part of a team. So, I want to get better everyday and learn new things.” – Alessandra Marquez Anduze
- 100) “Band is important to me because It is another way to express my feeling about music also learning an instrument has been a great opportunity because it's not all about the notes on the page its about expressing how you feel in the music. This is why band is important to me.” – Jeyleen Negron
- 101) “As an eighth grade band student at Rancho Del Rey Middle School, I believe the Art programs are vital to students. I personally believe this because with experience, I cam personally say that being in an art has taught me a lot of things. For example, as a band student we learn life skills such as taking responsibility for things you are assigned to (in this case our instruments) and dedication to something like a music extra curricular. Not only has being in an Arts program taught me things like previously listed, but it has sparked my interest in topics such as music that I may want to look into as a career pathway someday. I, for these reasons believe that the Arts programs at schools are very important.” - A Rancho Del Rey Middle School Student
- 102) “Personally, I think the Arts are important because they allow people to experience new things and they let people have a new appreciation for art and music. They learn how much work goes into concerts and other Art shows, and they have a new kind of respect.” – Lilia Mikaela Aricheta
- 103) “I believe that the arts at our school are very important and beneficial for all students. I am currently in Eastlake’s dance program and I have learned so much from being apart of the team. Not only do I just learn technique, I learn life lessons and discipline. And the great thing about this class is that I don't have to continue dance forever to benefit from taking this class, almost everything I get out of this class affects me in my daily life outside of dance. From learning how to be respectful and proper to managing time wisely and communicating to apply for professional businesses. Throughout the year I see myself improving as a dancer and as a person. Being apart of Eastlake’s dance program has been one of the greatest experiences of my life.” – Phillip Phan

- 104) “The arts are very important to me because I have learned so many things through out the time I have been in Ballet Folklorico and not just dancing but also how to work with other people and be able to get along with them and also have better communication among my dance partners. The importance of arts is special for many and just me because as a dance we treat each other with respect and we have grown so much learning from our teachers and we have even grown into believing we are a big dance family.” Brianda Hurtado
- 105) “Band is important to me because music can have emotional affects. It can induce happiness, sadness, or straight up fun. Music can help those in need. And your bandmates will most likely be your best friends, because you have played music together. Music with meaning. Your bandmates got your back. Music can bring anyone together, even if you don't speak the same language. That's why band is important to me.” – Richard Kately
- 106) “The Arts is important to me because it gives me a chance to express the talent I have. In band, my flute has it's own voice and it can be heard, which makes me happy. Music has a lot in my life, so band would be the same for the feeling. Drawing and painting also lets my talents be seen, while band lets my talents be heard.” – Jessica Racela
- 107) “The arts to me everyday is something to look forward to. The reason I think the arts are important is because it allows kids to express themselves in many more ways than just a few notes on a sheet of paper. Many relationships, friendships, and bonds were and are still being made along the journey the arts provide. Not only does it teach you the significance of being able to produce music, but it teaches many life lessons, such as perseverance, and also error and trial. Arts make me happy and I think that music is what makes plenty of kids happy, including me. I've grown close to people I thought I never would've. I've learned so much since the beginning. Arts are never ending, there's always a new thing everyday. And that's why the arts are important to me.” – Cerina Jordyn Clemente
- 108) “The arts are important to me because they provide a creative outlet for students who may not be involved in athletics. For me, the arts serve as a fun way to relieve stress. I think the arts are important in schools because they offer an opportunity for students to find a way to express themselves. For me, I prefer visual arts because I am more of a visual learner, but if not for this and my shyness, I would see the performing arts program as a great opportunity. Another reason the arts program is important is that they allow people to make friends with whom they have something in common with. If not for these programs some people would never meet some of the people they are friends with. Also being in the arts program allows opportunities for scholarships for students who excel in their vapa classes. Overall, the arts program is essential to school. “ – Allie Silsbee
- 109) “Arts are so import because it helps people come up with now designs if we didn't have art then the word will be plan the building wouldn't have are and the cities will look dead who ever made art was a good and smart person. People are happy to have art i like art its fun and teaches me more things in it. You have fun hanging out with friends and you can do it with family and its just fun to do stuff and pant cool things.” Eduardo Cortez
- 110) “My name is Marvin Mendoza, I believe the arts are very important and crucial to me because it serves as a way to express my self in such a way that is not obviously available to me through other mediums. Whenever I lose myself in art I feel a sense of freedom to create whatever I desire. Not only do I have the freedom to create what I want but I can also inspire others with my work who could then inspire others with what they create. Art has been important throughout history and I believe there will always be people like me who enjoy art and will never cease in their love for the arts. Art is always going to be important and make an impact in peoples lives whether they regularly enjoy art or only enjoy or once in a while.”
- 111) “This is from Ramon from Montgomery Middle School. Art is important to me so that I do not draw stick figures. I need it so I can draw better on my assignment. I can also impress people with my drawing skills. Also I need it to pass 8th grade.”
- 112) “I am Camille Silverio and I am currently in Eastlake High School's 'Dance 1' program. The arts are extremely important to me because it allows me to express myself, improve my self confidence, and discover something new. Dance takes the stress out of everything, whether it's schoolwork or something else. It creates a seamless connection between motivation and instruction, which leads to deep understanding. Dance teaches me how to listen to music, and make every beat count. Creative thinking skills are developed through dance as well as learning the value of discipline, commitment and work ethic. Much like any other form of art, dance offers invaluable and important lessons.”

- 113) "Why the arts are important to me? It is important to me because it allows me to see how beautiful it can be. No matter the form of it, rather it be a painting, a music piece, a sculpture, and/or just random objects thrown together, they can display a special meaning. Art can touch people's hearts, but people can spill their hearts out into art itself as well. Most people can be very passionate with art and think nothing of it. Singing is my passion and I enjoy doing it everyday. So overall, art is a big part of my life, and I try to bring other people into the arts as well." - Jerrick Abueg, Olympian High School, Student of Ms. Opdahl
- 114) "The arts are important to me because they provide a medium for people to express their ideas and showcase their artistic intelligence. They also enhance our culture as a community and as a society. The arts also create an emotional effect on people, which enhances their sense of humanity." Natalia Lomeli, Olympian High School, Student of Ms. Jennifer Opdahl
- 115) "The arts are important to me, centrally, as a form of expression. Through the several forms of arts and abilities that come with it, I feel one can always find a pathway to express beliefs, emotions, or an important message. Such provides a sense of self and, I feel, an ability to become more connected with what you are interested in and feel you would like to make an impact with. The arts are all an individual process, you may choose to take it seriously or have fun with it, and the process is created by oneself." – Cassandra Rodriguez
- 116) "The arts are important to me because everyday I get to come in to a place where I feel safe and forget my troubles for a whole class period. Before I was in the class I had one friend and I was scared to talk to anyone now I have multiple friends and have gotten better at talking to others. Many of these people have also helped me with my problems and because of them I haven't been bullied since. It gives me something to do, it creates a family spending hours together to accomplish something amazing." - Carissa Ainsworth, Senior at Bonita Vista High School
- 117) "The SCPA Program allows me to engage in a specific performing arts that I would be interested in. My elective is piano and I am so glad that I could have the chance to learn the instrument I had always wanted to learn since young. Thank you for supporting this class with the numerous pianos needed, but overall, thank you for allowing me to learn to play the piano in general. (◉´▽`◉) - Sharmaine Parani
- 118) "Hello my name is Natalie Patterson and I'm from Chula Vista High School and I'm in the SCPA program I don't feel like I'm the smartest person in my class or in school in general but when I go into any of the SCPA classes that I take such as piano my worry of my lack of knowledge disappears so I think that the arts to me are a way for students to express themselves in a way that some of them can't always do and the SCPA program has given students at Chula Vista High School a new way to view life and maybe their career choices."
- 119) "I just recently joined the SCPA, and it's such an amazing opportunity I was able to join. I am now in piano which is opening up many musical advantages. I also love I get taught for free rather than spending money on piano lessons. Thanks!" - Luis Tafolla
- 120) "Hi my name is Cristofer Gonzalez I believe that art is very important. Why? because art help people relax from any stress, Like music helps me, ever time I play my instrument I relax I feel like nothing can stress me out. Art is like a pause from school from all that homework, classwork, test, etc."
- 121) "Vapa may be really important to some students because it offers students who learn differently to express themselves. It allows students to become complete and gets them ready for college. it creates rounded or complete students. Just getting good grades does not prepare students for a successful college career. Vapa is also good because it can show kids new interest and allow them to try stuff they couldn't other wise do. Vapa programs can also help students to figure out what they want to do after high school.. All of these reasons are why Vapa can be important to some students." – Vince Dreyer
- 122) "The arts are important to me for many reasons. Dance is important to me is because it helps me challenge myself physically and mentally. Without dance being in my daily classes I would have nothing to look forward to and probably wouldn't be going to school, which wouldn't help my education at all. Also dance physically helps me because it helps me stay fit. Dance is also important to me because it prepares me for greater things. Dance prepares me for better things because I am able to learn correct discipline, posture, attitude, and dancing, which would help me with future job interviews and college applications. In conclusion the arts are very important to me because of these reasons." – Kayla Patterson

- 123) “The arts are important to me because it gives me an outlet to express myself through music and find life long friends with the same passion for it. It allows me to take a break from the stress of school and homework, allowing me to just be myself without worries and enjoy doing what I love. Without the arts, I wouldn't have a way to express who I am and show my creativity. It would physically take away a part of who I am.” - Katelynn Vinegas, Band Student
- 124) “The arts are important to me because it is a way of escape. I'm a dancer, and when I dance I forget about the world and focus on what I'm doing. Not only is dancing a way to escape so is playing an instrument. The musicians get lost in the music they feel the music. Even in art they get lost in the beauty of their painting and in the beauty of their surroundings which is what they paint. Choir get their feelings out by singing amazing meaning full song that touch peoples hearts and touch peoples lives. These arts were created by our ancestors and that was the way they lived, making art, dancing, and playing music. Drama is a way to show with a skit or a play what is happening in the world or what is in someones head. These arts give you freedom a way to express yourself. These arts make you in you. Something that I have learned from dance is how to present myself. For example, I walk with purpose and good posture means I mean business and if I have a poor posture it does not talk good about myself. I have learned a lot about how to present myself and how to take care of myself while having fun in my dance class. All in all, the arts are very important to because they show people and yourself who you are and how you could be better while having fun and it also opens doors to the artistic life.” – Helen Mercado Valdivias
- 125) “The arts are important because it's a way of expressing one's self, but not just that art can also be a way of releasing emotions. Art can be seen anywhere from the streets to subway stations to the museums, whether it is a form of graffiti art down to the most sophisticated ones that are hard to understand it is still considered art. Art can have various meanings towards different individuals for some it's just a hobby, while others it is a way of expressing their mind and to send a message that can't be said in words. Any type of art is appreciated everywhere because it is a wonderful thing and visually appealing to look at as well. Art is just part of life that will always be there no matter how big or small it is.” – Aldrin Angosta
- 126) “The arts are a huge element in schooling. Students are able to take a break from all the educational classes and do something they enjoy. The arts allow students to express themselves. The arts are important to me because it allows me to do what i love to do while in school. Most people can agree that school is very stressful, being able to take a break from all the stress throughout the day helps us not lose our minds. We learn some much from the arts, that will help us become the artists the world is slowly losing.” – Beyonce Segobia
- 127) “The arts are important to me for a number of reasons. Being able to express my beliefs and emotions indirectly through art is definitely an important aspect. Art is also a way for me to exercise the creative part of my brain. I am able to go out and develop an image from nothing. Without art, there wouldn't be a way for me to capture the beauty in life and influence others. With art programs like the photography class, I am able to learn about how to become a better photographer and develop a skill that will be used in a number of ways later on in my life. All in all, the arts allow me to be me.” - An art enthusiast
- 128) “The visual and performing arts are important to me because they allow students to express themselves and they provide a creative outlet. Courses like photography, dance, band, art, and Music Machine give students a mental break from their rigorous academic work, and allows them to be creative in positive ways. Being in a photography class, I can personally say that it has been beneficial to me because it has forced me to think outside of the box; compared to the mindless memorization of endless information just to get a grade. These classes allow students to be positively creative instead of other outlets, like vandalism.” – Haili Piel
- 129) “Art is such an amazing form of expression. I personally find it satisfying to have intellectual discussions about tone, depth of field, rule of thirds, and the disgusting noise in photography. The use of arts allows students to get insight on the different aspects and uses of art. So, the next time they take a picture or draw something they use the concepts they learned to make it an impressionable piece. Students may even find a new found love and choose to make a career out of it. The arts are in simple words timeless. I love how one person can look at a photograph or a painting and contemplate the meaning in their own way, like poetry. It is such a profound way to express ones self in a visual way. Without art where would creativity emerge from? Math? No! It is a way to remember a moment in time so that when you go back to it you can recall the feeling you had when you envisioned it, when you allowed yourself to be completely and utterly happy as your fingertips glided across the canvas, as they slightly pressed down on a silver button to focus on what was before them. Art adds color to what seems like a darkened world.” – Victoria Berg

- 130) “The arts that i take in school are very important to me. The arts teach me new skills with painting, drawing, photography, and how to use Photoshop. I am able to make amazing photos in the photo shop class with the help of my teacher, Mr. Jones. In my art class with Mr. Braunn, I learn different techniques with my pencil strokes and paintbrush strokes. Later in my life I would like to remember those skills so i could teach my kids or use it for my own purposes.” Conrad Holden
- 131) “I feel the arts are important to me as they provide a release from the everyday stress of school. While that's not to imply that some classes of the typical academia isn't enjoyable, but the arts allow one to have a change of setting from the typical desk and lecture style of teacher students are so used to. Not only that, though, but it allows the students to have a secure space to express themselves they might otherwise not have in the traditional classroom environment. Personally, by being in the arts, specifically choir, I have been given to chance, in my opinion, to truly blossom into the person I am today.” Raynier Dylan Ramos. Olympian High, Jennifer Opdahl
- 132) “The arts have played a significant role in my life thus far. I spent 9-11th grades in choir/show choir, which I loved immensely. In the music departments, I spent countless hours gaining musical knowledge and learning valuable team and leadership skills. I wouldn't trade the time I spent rehearsing and performing for anything. The VAPA programs at my school made the years I spent in them enjoyable and taught me so much about myself and how to be a member of a united team. I am currently spending senior year in photography, which I love. I have learned so much and have enjoyed every minute. I think that the arts programs are extremely important to each student. The values and lessons learned in each program are unique, and can't be learned in other classes. I feel that I learned so much more about myself and who I am in choir and photography than I ever did in science or math. These classes need your support in order to continue to grow and develop, so please continue to allow students to participate in VAPA classes.” - Sincerely, Rachel Sherman
- 133) “The arts are important because they allow you to interpret the world around you in a personal and unique way. Each interpretation is different, and that's what makes art such an important aspect of education. The possibilities are endless, with art ranging from photography to computer design to even drawing and painting art. It's a shame that only one year of high school art is a requirement to graduate. Art should allow students to innovate and be something everyone should want to do, not something they're forced to do. While it's reasonable that art isn't necessarily everyone's cup of tea, it none-the less should be appreciated, valued and given more respect outside the classroom. To whomever reading this, thank you and I hope you can make a difference towards the next generation of artists.” – Andrew Eide
- 134) “The reason why the arts are important to me is because it allows me to express myself without using words. I've never really been able to explain things especially emotions, but with art I am able to do just that. I like that people are able to do that with any form of art. I personally like to drawing and photography but there are so many forms of art that help people like music, sculpting, dance, etc. Art has also helped me figure out what I want to do with my life, what career I want to go into. Before I never really knew what to do but once I have started drawing and taking different forms of art classes I have learned I want to be a graphic designer.” – Melanie McMeans
- 135) “In many ways the arts are the reason and source of inspiration for the many people of the world. Whether it be music, photography, drama, etc. people find comfort and sanctuary in some form of art. It is important to me because it inspires creativity within myself and allows me to express myself in ways that words cannot. It brings people together and helps establish deep connections that could be found in no other way. Art is also an important and rich part of many cultures that is often passed down generation to generation. Art is important to me because of is inspiring properties to the world.” – Taylor Nelson
- 136) “The arts are important to me because everything that we see, read, or hear is made from the arts. Without the arts people would not be creative, and creativity is very important to create a educated person. Art classes at school give kids a time of day where they don't have to worry about taking notes, or testes, but instead get top show creativity and their skills, in painting, drawing, Photoshop, and much more. Art is very relaxing because you can just sit down and draw, and paint and not worry about what is going on around you, but what is on the paper or canvas. Art might not be for everyone but neither is science, math, or history, but for the people who love it deserve to have that opportunity.” - Kyle McLellan JR. Bonita Vista High
- 137) “I believe art is important because it expresses the artist's emotions and feelings on the drawing. Not only that but art is beautiful and it means a lot to many people.” – Luis Osorio

- 138) "Why I think art is important to me? Well it's important because it adds character and it gives me a chance to express my creativity. It's an fun and imaginative experience, it helps get rid of any negative emotions that I'm feeling." - Dylan Garcia, Montgomery Middle. P.S. It's a lot more fun than English that's for sure.
- 139) "Art is important to me because to me art is a passion. In my opinion, art is a ticket to life and success. Art is also important to me because without art the world would just be plain, everywhere you go, everything u wear, everything u eat, everything u touch is art." – Gina Moreno
- 140) "Art is important to me because it is an elective where I don't have to worry about reading and tests and I can just paint or draw or something. Art is fun because it is a social class." – Yahir Lopez
- 141) "I believe art is important because it displays our minds into drawings that other people can see. It gives others insights of what is going on in your mind. Also it's something anyone could do in their free time." – Nathen Gorham
- 142) "I think art is important because if it wasn't for art, video games, TV, paintings and posters wouldn't exist. I wouldn't be able to do things I like to do nowadays." – Bulmaro Perez
- 143) "Art is important to me because I believe that art is an escape for people to not feel judged or to get away from any of their problems. Art lets us students show our creativity and feelings. It is a very good program because it teaches kids that you can make anything. I started of not knowing how to make a drawing of a real person. Art helps me improve and I'm not afraid to try new techniques anymore." – Arleth Robles
- 144) "I thinkz the artz is of importanze because it expandz your creativity. It alzo is importantz to keepz an open mindz to new thingz and I think that iz important in a modern industrialized country to keep an open mind." – Oliver Ojeda
- 145) "I believe that the arts are important because many people who enjoy them can express their feelings and so much passion into it as well. Many people who are involved with the arts and love it you can see it through their work, you can see how they feel about it and it may connect to you in a way. Some arts can describe feelings and it can connect with many people who feel the same way or feel a different vibe from the art and yet still feel as if they have been that way then or before. I think that arts arts are important is because you can express who you are and what you love." - Sincerely, Yesenia Marron (Montgomery Middle School)
- 146) "I think the arts are important because it allow students to express themselves. Like the choir program it allowed people to learn and find themselves in music. I myself have been in choir and it help me express myself and even give me confidence. Also photography helps people express themselves. This why the arts are important, the arts help people/students express themselves. Even help students find new friends. All types of arts does this, doesn't matter if it what type it is. Its important to have them in school and important to take one or do one." – Samantha Tamayo
- 147) "I believe the arts are important because they give students a chance to express themselves in a different way. Some students are good at math, some history and some are good at creating abstract are that is influenced by their emotions. If schools were to take away fine arts they would be restricting students ability to think in different ways and to see things in a different perspective. I personally would like to keep arts because it makes me feel less stressed and I am also being educated on art. Art also allow me to express myself in different ways, it's another outlet. It's key to have this because now there are so many tough subjects and art is one with no distinct rubric, it's simply creating something personal. With art the world is able to contact to each other simply through hues, moods and anything the artist chooses to use." – Sarah Marcq
- 148) "I believe that the arts are important because it allows people of all ages to be creative in their own way. The arts allow kids, teens, and adults to express their feelings. Whether someone is interested in dance, music, or illustration, they are able to add their own taste into their piece. The arts are also a way for people to find their interests and have something to enjoy throughout their life. Having an art credit in school is a good thing because its gives the students experience and for the students that have an interest in the arts, it will give them experience as well and a class that they enjoy at school." – Michelle Oh
- 149) "In my opinion, the arts are important because they allow each student to express their creativity. Arts are not just for creative expression, they serve the purpose to educate us on every aspect. Aside from art being creative, it is

also technical. Art is also important because it can serve as an outlet for emotions and problems. Art brings diversity and culture that allows me to go beyond my safe zone. All in all, art is important because it influences me to be different from others, and different is good.” – Daniel Huevo

- 150) “Art is important to me because art gives me an chance to express myself in a way that can not be express in a physical form. Art is the place where I can learn to be my creative and expressive.” – Alexander Guerrero
- 151) “My name is Mikayla and I am from Montgomery middle school. I think the art is important to me because it help stay calm. Another reason why art is important because I can learn different stuff about color. I also think art is important because I can get better at drawing real life stuff or people because I only know how to draw cartoon.”
- 152) “The arts are important to me because it defines who you are and can make you feel like you are doing something that is fun. In my opinion arts doesn't mean just drawing, there are many other types of arts for example: photography, makeup, music, and many more. Some people may say that being in any type of art class is boring but to other people it may be the career that they want to do. I want an art career in either photography an/or music. The arts are important in people’s everyday life because that is either their profession or just their hobby. The arts are very famous around the world but it is mostly recognized in countries in Europe.” – Joaquin Davila
- 153) “Art is important to me because it helps students be creative and let their imagination run wild. It is also important to learn art it teaches skills that might be needed in jobs like construction. Art is part of history and the American culture that must be teach in school.” – Arnoldo Rivas
- 154) “The art is important to me because when I see amazing paintings it makes me feel different emotions because in every art piece it suppose to have a mood to it that I really like. So I think art it is important because I want to give someone the mood I’m putting into my art, I want them to feel at least an emotion when they see an art piece, if its mine or somebody elses art.” - Sebastian Alex Blas, Montgomery Middle School
- 155) “My name is Timothy and I go to Montgomery Middle and I believe the arts is important because one it gives us and everyone away to express are self in some type of way for example art, music, dance, and others. Arts could be the stepping stone to many of are live goals, achievements, and maybe even are careers. It may not look important to some people but the arts have change the way we all live are life's in someway. And it could change are life choices for many reasons the arts are everywhere but the only way the got there was from learning from teacher, parents, and other artist.” - Sincerely, Timothy Daniel Gonzalez
- 156) “I think art is important to me because if it wasn’t for art I would not be able to express myself as much as I do today. I have learned a lot about art and I think if there is no art in school than kids are not gonna be as creative as others who do. Everyone needs to be creative some way and I express my creativeness by drawing and doing arts and crafts, sometimes I’m at home and I have nothing to do so I decide to draw and paint and use everything Ms. Austin has though us to do.” - Best regards, Cuauhtemoc from Montgomery Middle
- 157) “The reason why arts are important to me, is because art can celebrate multiple perspectives. In other words, there are many ways to see and interpret the world. Also, art can help children learn to say what cannot be said. I feel that this is important because they must reach into their capabilities to find the words that will do the job. Those are basically my reasons why art is important to me.” – Kevin Phan
- 158) “My name is Sienna and I go to Montgomery Middle School. Art is very important to me because I love to paint and draw and art is something a lot of people like to enjoy. Art is something people like to show their emotion, feelings, and other things, also art is something people do for a living.”
- 159) “Art is important to me because it helps me see the true beauty of everything instead of brushing it off and saying that anybody can do that. Art is important to me because it lets me show how I feel and that I can do amazing work like the others in the world.” – Cesar Molina
- 160) “Art is important to me because it helps me get creative. I get to express all my creative ideas in my artwork. I also enjoy that I get to be unique with my artwork because not everyones artwork is the same. This is why art is important to me.” From Montgomery Middle (Janice B.)
- 161) “I wanted to explain why art is important to me, so here are my reasons. One reason art is important to me is because it lets me express my self in my own way, there are no boundries to what I can create. It lets me express

my self without any words, just images of what my mind wants me to put out there. I am my own artist in many ways. Art is my way out of reality. So here are my reasons, it might not be much but to me it is." - Elizabeth Quintana From Montgomery Middle

- 162) "Everywhere you look you see a form of art. Art has inspired and created the historical back-grounds for hundreds of years. It is an important part of our culture and gives some people like myself a reason to wanting to continue to thrive in life. With the many different forms of art, my look on the simplest things have broadened. Music and dance is an everyday thing in my life and it constantly is a reminder of how the world can be viewed in so many different ways. The beautiful coordination that it takes to create such complicated pieces is whats so inspiring in my day to day goals. Without the arts my life would be dull and lifeless, every person needs to take in the cultural appreciation." – Anna Nichole
- 163) "The arts are important to me because I think it is a necessary thing in school and in learning. It gives a different outlook on learning; rather than sitting at a desk listening to a teacher lecture, you are doing hands on learning by interacting and doing your work on your own. The arts are a very fun and enjoyable part of school and lets students get away from the typical classroom environment." – Ryan Berry
- 164) "The "arts" can be defined as many things, however, in an educational setting, students are limited to very few and sparingly funded classes. In the same way that athleticism is healthy for the body and promotes fitness or health, art is an outlet that is healthy for the mind and promotes not only creativity, but skills that allow students to see things through different perspectives. Being a student who is an athlete, a debater, an artist, and a managing editor of the school paper, being surrounded by different mediums of art has shown me that kids need art. For some, it is a simple stress reliever, but to others, art serves as a fundamental piece of their entire being; it is even the career choice of certain students. Getting rid of the arts or cutting funding is not the right thing to do. Since the arts take the form of many different activities, any decision or policy regarding the arts would affect a tremendous amount of students. Without the arts, school would not instill passion, it would narrow the scope of thinking and creativity, and ultimately hurt the individuals who rely on the arts to get them through the day." Sincerely, Juliette Nguyen, Senior
- 165) "The arts are not that important to me. Personally, I have no interest in the arts what so ever. However, as I have my own interests in other subjects that are not within school coverings, I am sure there are students who really appreciate classes of the arts, look forward to attending them, and furthering their education in such interests. Taking such classes out of schools would upset many students, that I'm sure of." – Alex
- 166) "Art comes in many shapes and forms, 2D, 3D, digital, music, and many more. Art is like a language that all cultures can speak, it brings us together. Art goes so far back in time, every civilization, every culture has art. Ancient cave drawings, Native Americans, Mayan, Renaissance, art is as old as time. It's important to have art because it sparks creativity in us, it gets our minds working. For some people art is an outlet, a get away from the real world, it provides comfort and relaxation. To me art is important for all ages because you can express yourself, its an outlet, creativity is great for the mind, especially for the younger minds." – Rolando Ayala
- 167) "Based on my past years of my experience with the arts, this topic is very important, to an extent, to me. Without the arts in my life I would not have a way to express my self in ways that words cannot express enough. The arts are great way for people to come together and share their inner capabilities in things that interest them the most. I have deep appreciation fro all of the subjects in the arts that your organization offer, and without it people would not be were they are today without it. The arts are important to me because it allows people from all over the world to share there inner creativity that has been held in for a long time and show others what they got. Many people take the arts for granted until they can actually be in it. I hope people appreciate the arts as much as I do." – Jeru Lopez
- 168) "The several art classes provided by our schools are significant to a majority of scholars for numerous reasons. These artistic classes like: beginning art and digital art, allow for a period of the day for an individual to be unique and creative in their own way. I find these art classes to provide a path for the creative individuals that one day aspire to have an artistic career, rather than being an accountant or doctor. Without these art classes available for these creative students, the school board hinders a large section of creative artistic learning for these scholars. Such art classes may not be widely popular in schools or seen as the most significant, but they serve to open the minds of the creative individuals that will develop our future." – Beau Munoz

- 169) “The Vapa department is important to me because it allows me an outlet to express myself. Being able to take dance classes at school allows me to do what I love when I otherwise wouldn't be able to.” – Shelbi Annis
- 170) “The arts are important to me because they are a form of self-expression. They also serve as an emotional outlet for me and as well as for others.” – Maia Magno
- 171) “The arts are important to me because it is what I love to do. I have been dancing for as long as I can remember and it is an important part of who I am. I don't know who I would be if I didn't have dance, and I know dance will continue to have a huge part of my life even after I graduate from high school.” – Guadalupe Sanchez
- 172) “Considering I'm in high school, some of the Arts are pretty important to me, as I'm sure they are to many other teenagers. I don't really do much outside of school, or inside school for that matter, but what I do engage myself in has a lot to do with many aspects of different kinds of art. Art helps with the daily monotone attitude that infects all of our adolescent minds, specially mine. If you were to take a glance at my life, you'd see that most of my activities outside of school pretty much revolve around art. I can tell you that what people don't like is a bunch of boring, routine classes about who did what to help the government hundreds of years ago, or what one person wrote about before they died. What we want, what we go for, is diversity. Thank you.” Joshua Conroy
- 173) “To me art is freedom. Any and all forms of it. I beat box, do parkour, do martial arts, draw, and write poems, and am currently taking a digital arts class. All of these things to me is art. Art is a very important part of my life. It's what I do in my leisure time, how I relax, and how I express myself. Art is an intrinsic part of me. I think it is for many other students as well. Whether they draw, write, dance, play guitar, or create works on the computer, art is something that brings joy to many people.” - Josiah Ryniec
- 174) “By way of visiting art museums, taking art classes and 15 years of ballet lessons, my love of the arts emerged organically. I have gained an overall appreciation for life and humanity by taking AP Art history. More recently, I have grown to be extremely passionate about graphic design in my role as page editor for my high school's newspaper and by taking a Digital Arts class. Visuals and aesthetics are vastly important to me because they allow me to think differently. I find that when I am creating, I am forced to be more imaginative, which then translates into other aspects of my academics such as my writing or in my leadership positions.

Additionally, the arts have allowed me to appreciate my various cultures that make up my identity. I was born in Mexico, I live in the United States, my grandparents emigrated from Eastern Europe and I am Jewish all of which has source of internal conflict growing up. However, in my more recent upbringing, I have found the beauty in the disarray, which has been facilitated through my love of arts. By studying artist like Frida Kahlo and Marc Chagall, I have explored the different assets of my identity and have gained an appreciation for my heritage.

Art is a part of my everyday life—it influences my fashion, my mood as so on. It is an outlet for my stress and frustrations as I find that there is nothing as relaxing to me than creating, whether it is in the form of doodling, collaging, creating graphic designs/images or painting. Unifying my love of art and interest in psychology, I have chosen to pursue a career as an art therapist, grant me the distinct privilege of engaging with my passions while also helping others heal, in the same way it has helped me.” – Larissa Yanofsky

- 175) “We live in a blended society where diversity is the key component in bringing students and teachers together. The biggest part of diversity is not only a difference of personality and character but an ability to express oneself in individual forms. Of these expressions is Visual and Performing Arts. Music, dance, art, orchestra, photography, and so many more types of art encourage students to express themselves in way that is completely universal. Music is universal. Photography is universal. Dance is universal. Being a student who is involved in multiple programs, the support of the program would greatly benefit me and all the future students to express themselves fully and purely.” - Sincerely, Otay Ranch Mustang
- 176) “The arts are important to me because music is the only escape from my problems. I'm an outgoing person but listening to music brings out the most optimistic side of me. It's amazing how a few strums of a guitar a voice and rythm could inspire so many people including me. Many people in this world listen to music and experience the arts and it becomes part of them and inspires them to do more. The arts take our inner personalities and covers our flaws. Music is important to me and I feel without it I wouldn't have passions to strive for. The arts gave me goals. That is why the arts are important to me.” – Kevin Chiroque

- 177) "The arts are important to me, because it brings out the creativity that I normally don't get to let out during a normal school day. I get to play music, which is like another language to me. I get to draw, which lets me release feelings with color, and I still use geometry, which helps me. The arts also help me in school. As soon as I started band in 3rd grade, my grades went up a ridiculous amount. It lights up all of your brain so that you are improving your mind in basically every way. This is why the arts are important to me." – Thomas Johnson Manley
- 178) "Arts is important to me because it lets my imagination out. When I watch TV shows or movies or see something, sometimes it inspires me to draw. Without arts, my life would be boring. Band is a cool type of art to do. Playing music is really fun." – Shawn Vincent Miranda
- 179) "Arts are important to me because it provides something in school that isn't as stressful or boring as the normal classes. It's sort of an outlet, and it's also fun to play or learn random new songs, or even drawing. When I play, I forget about all the stress and other classes and just focus on playing the music, and it feels refreshing." – Alan Garzon-Monroy
- 180) "I can think of so many answers and reasons why art is such an important subject. I could say it's what develops culture, imagination, society... But I say it's one of the key things keeping our society impact. I mean think about it, you're doing art everywhere. In math when you write on your notebook, it may not seem exciting, but you are actually using a pencil to create something on a paper that wasn't there before. No matter what you're doing, daydreaming, writing a 5 paragraph essay before the end of the week, math equations... You're doing art. Without art, you're looking at a stale world with no creativity, no imagination... Just a grey world. Art made different types of music, different types of traditions... I would say that it created the universe, but that would be crazy. Art developed the Earth, and art is what made us move towards our evolution eventually leading up to today. I know many people see art in a different perspective, but this is the way I see art. This is the way I see art and how it revolves around the world. Thank you for your time." - Sincerely, Nessel Gonzales
- 181) "Arts is amazing. Singing is relaxing, playing my instrument makes me happy, drama is fantastic it helps learning of others lives, its really fun to act out things/people. I believe it's really important in life. People learn and get better learning skills because every one many parts of there brain." – Mary Marquez
- 182) "Don't cut the arts. The arts are important to me because it's my escape from everyday life." -Clarissa
- 183) "The arts are important because they allow for people to get an insight as to what people believe outside of words but instead in an artistic manner. The definition of art is the expression or application of Human creative skill. And that is why art is important it allows for people to express creativity. Art can be displayed both through visuals as well as through a performance. Thus art is the basis for human expression." – Hamza Benchekroun
- 184) "I love arts. In general. Band, art, digital music, movies, and so much more are just so fun. I am personally only in my school's Band class, and I feel comfortable, happy, and I feel like I'm learning something that I can use later in life. Something I could do as a career. And not only at school, but with personally projects too. I've learned and done a whole bunch of stuff at home with arts, like digital art and coloring, Animations, comics, and recreating music I like. It really feels like something I can pursue as a real job, and just make my creations. To be able to make something, ANYTHING! Can make you feel proud of our selves. To be able to say "Yes. I CAN make that. I SHOULD make I WILL make that. I HAVE made that. It is something within my ability to make SOMETHING worthwhile, entertaining, and interesting." Yes, Arts are very important to me for billions of reasons."- Jerik Guevara
- 185) "I believe arts plays an important role in a teenagers life because to me I feel comfortable sitting next to my classmates. Also it's so much fun going to concert and look another bands and other people playing same instrument as me. Playing an instrument and drawing are the only times I get to show my true colors." – Isac Eusebio
- 186) "I believe music programs has helped me develop as a better student, and opened my mind. In the fourth grade I was introduced to a violin, which I learned the history of music and was taught to play an instrument. Everyone in my school who wanted to play music, had the opportunity to choose whatever individual instrument they wanted to play, which gave us a sense of individuality. I fell in love with playing the violin, however when I transferred to Rancho Del Rey Middle, at that time they didn't have an orchestra. Although I had a guitar class to make up for it, it wasn't as the same since everyone played one instrument. However in my last year of high school, I decided to take choir because I had the hobby of singing. I feel more free and expressive, and the last three years of no

music programs at school, felt like a drought. Music programs are very necessary to relieve stress upon younger adults, because each day I played the violin or sing my heart out, I forget about my worries and clear my mind. It also taught me to try something new, even if its different and scary. I believe its necessary to become a diverse and open minded adult to have art programs.” - Kaylin

- 187) “There's so many reasons on why the arts is important to me. I never struggled growing up or had some emotional thing that I went through, but growing up I always felt different and always had this passion for music and for singing. Music is a way for people to have an outlet for everything going on in their lives. Whatever I was going through I always turned to music and blasted it as loud as I could. I would sing my heart out until my problems go away. Music helps people find out what they want to do with their lives and it gives kids opportunities. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't listen to music, sing, or dance. Choir is my outlet, makes me happy, and gives me a reason to go to school. Music is the most important thing to me just like my voice is. If I didn't have choir I wouldn't have broken out of my comfort zone and been the person I am now. In other words, there is no perfect way to describe how important choir and music are to me. The experience and the opportunities that come with choir are indescribable.” – Kristina Ortiz
- 188) “The arts are important to me because the performances that are put on help me get over stage fright. The arts also help us to truly test our talent and get us to be closer to our class mates.” – B.R.
- 189) “I'm not a huge lover of the arts, mainly because I'm not very creative nor artistic. However, many students are, and if you give away these arts, you take a lot away from many students. Many people my age dread going to school, they don't find it fun, interesting, and sometimes even safe. A lot of people feel as if their art classes are a safe zone to express themselves and relieve stress. It also helps with the dynamic of having lots of core, required subjects. If we only had English, math, history, and science classes, lots of people would feel very stressed. Learning back to back like that can be difficult and overwhelming, but taking an art that interests you helps create that divide. School would become even more boring and uneventful than most students already find it to be. Plus a lot of kids can find a new passion and hobby, that they might not have noticed was there to begin with. Music, arts and sports, not only can lead to many different careers that people are in fact obtaining, but it helps make school more lively, and enthusiastic.” – Sydney Ingram
- 190) “For me the arts are important because I have a hard time talking in front of people and singing helps me overcome my fear of being in front of an audience.” – Victoria Torres
- 191) “Art is important because we see art everyday. If it wasn't for art, our world around us would be really boring. Art gives people creativity and passion to make the world better. Art also helps people that have been through or are going through a hard time in their life. These are just some of the reasons art is important to me and to many people around us.” – Cassandra Rubio
- 192) “Art is important to me in many ways. Art is used in everything. To me it is especially important because I play guitar and want to be a designer in fashion when I'm older. Taking art helps me be more creative.” – Ashley Lopez
- 193) “Art is important to me because I get to know how to draw and become better at designing different drawings. I also think it's entertaining, because you can be creative with art. There are many different options you can choose from while coloring. For example the color that you want to use and the design/picture you want to color. I just think its really fun!” - Stephanie Corona, Montgomery Middle
- 194) “Art is important to me because it's really fun and nobody can tell you what do, you could do what ever you want. It is important to me because you get to express yourself and do what ever comes to your mind. It's also very important to me because art is interesting to look at and it's all different.” - Sincerely, Valeria
- 195) “Art is important to me because it is relaxing. I'm bad at drawing but art makes me better and it's fun to draw. Art is important because you get to create things and do projects. That's why art is important.” – Daniel Bours
- 196) “Art is important to me because art can be Fun! There are many types of art that can be fun to do for example, Drawing, Cooking, Fashion etc. Drawing is one of my favorites because I get to become creative. Art is also important because Think of a world without art? There wouldn't be any colors and it would be just plain boring and people wouldn't be able to express feelings throughout art! This is why I think art is important to me.” - Misty Diaz

- 197) “Art is important for me for many reasons, art teaches us children that problems can have more than one solution and that what adults believe is important. Art also makes possible new forms of imagining that make genuine change possible. Also, Creating art provides a distraction, giving your brain a break from your usual thoughts.” – Diocy Zepeda
- 198) “Art is important to me because art is very creative and you use a lot of color. Also you learn new things in art like the elements of art and you become a better drawer.” – Juliana Paredes Rico
- 199) “Art is important to me because I think it helps me learn more about how to draw different things not just the same thing over and over again. I also think it is important to me because it's really fun for me when I have nothing else to do.” – Vanessa Yost
- 200) “Art is important to me because it shows more than just a picture. An art piece says 1,000 words. It's beautiful when I see pictures that have meaning because people devote their time for something they love to do so why take it away? I like how art can be created from many things and I want to be able to experience those things. Art is not just a pen and paper, there is more to it.” - Isabel
- 201) “Art is important to me because I love to do projects and do a lot of more fun activities in art. Art makes people have a talent and makes people want to do more of it. – Aaron Hitchner
- 202) “Art is an important class in our school because it not only gives us a chance to be creative but it also helps us in our academics.” – Rene Jimenez
- 203) “Art is important to me because it makes me feel relaxed and it lets me draw what my interests are. Also sometimes I don't have to be bored and go outside, sometimes I can draw random things or do a doodle. In conclusion, I feel like art lets me express who I really am.” -
- 204) Alexia Lei
- 205) “The arts at my school are important to me because that is the time in my day that I get to bring out the creative side in me. In photography I get to show my teacher what I see through my eyes as well as I get to work on my skills in Photoshop all the time. In my design mixed media class I get to show my teacher what secret talents I either do or don't have. I also get to visualize how important art is in other parts of the world for example I have made a tapa cloth and I am now working on a cultural mask. These show me how people get stories and tales out of art work because every art work I have seen this year has had its own story to tell me and I want to continue to see those stories for this year and hopefully next year. This is why my art classes are important to me.” – Jared Garcia
- 206) “I want band to stay because I want to learn music i want to make my parents proud of what I can.” – Kryz Jarette Luciano
- 207) “The arts are important to me because it's an escape from reality. When your playing guitar, you don't even know that you are. It's so enjoying outside of school too. When my aunt left to Connecticut, thanks to guitar, I was able to play a song to my aunt. Thank you for trying your best!” -Tameron Davis
- 208) “The arts are important to me because it is a way I can express myself in different ways. There isn't just one way to show who I am. It is important to be able to show who you are in way that makes you happy.” – Vanessa Frese
- 209) “Music has been one of the biggest parts of my life. I've been a guitarist for 6 years and every time I grab a guitar and play, every bad thought is gone, the concentration but relaxing way of playing, it really touches your soul. Music has saved me of stress, and I won't stop playing, no matter where life takes me, music will always be a part of me.” –Irving Zavalza
- 210) “The arts are important to me because it's really a great alternative if you really like music. And I really like music. Being in guitar class is really fun and I just like learning about how guitars are and how to play. Since I have a ukulele, it kind of connects with a guitar and it really benefits me and I learn a little more. But in general it's fun and I'm into music so yeah.” – Alizelle Oquendo

- 211) “Arts are important to me because I learn new arts everyday. Before today I never knew how to play a guitar or Draw. I love drawing now and being able to draw things that come to mind. I just started learning playing and I like it everyday more and more.” – Samantha Perpuly
- 212) “The arts are important to me because it makes going to school fun. If there wasn't any visual arts, it would possibly make school boring. Think about it you have to go to school and all the classes are just a drag. But then, you get to go to your performing arts class and you get to actually do something that you can actually enjoy. Honestly a performing arts class is mainly the only class that cares about what you want to do.” - A performing arts student
- 213) “The reason guitar is so important is because you learn new things everyday. You're in guitar and its an amazing experience to learn how to use a guitar or any other amazing instrument. Many people love band, guitar and so many other music classes. We enjoy our bandmates who always are thrilled to be in guitar. They are always ready to start learning new music notes and new ways to learn different music notes.” – Ryan Martinez
- 214) “The arts have always been important to me. As a child music was always on my mind. When my sister started to learn how to play piano and soon after the guitar, I always wanted to learn an instrument. I tried learning piano like my sister but wasn't so good at it. Then once I reached 7th grade I immediately signed up for guitar and started to learn about music so much. That is why the arts have been important to me.” – John Mark Suing
- 215) “The arts are very important to me, it is a way to get away from everything and just relax and do something I love for a couple of hours. Having music in my life is a way of expressing myself, it's really the only time where I can really do what I enjoy doing and the rush I get when I'm up on stage is amazing and un-replaceable, a lot of people enjoy doing this and when they're up on the stage, the smile on their faces are amazing, AND backstage, all they talk about is how amazing it was and how fun it is and how much they love it.” – Shantel Solares
- 216) “The arts are important to me because it lets me express myself with music. It is also a great experience to play guitar with a group and play in front of an audience. The idea of learning how to use an instrument is fascinating because only some people know how to play an instrument.” – Priscilla Ibarra
- 217) “I think that arts are important and more to learn it because I'm able to express my feelings. I also think its important because I will like to be able to play songs and even make my own songs.” – Brayon Castro
- 218) “Art is defined as the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power. There is much more to art than just this definition. From doodling to creating a statue, it can be a way to calm the mind. Calm the soul. Therefore art is not just a form of expression. It is a religion to millions around the world.” – Ignacio Alvarez
- 219) “I think that the arts at our school are very important. These arts are ways that students can express themselves. I think that the arts also provide more knowledge for the students because they learn about things they have never learned about. Photography for example, is a subject that students can express their creativity by turning pictures they take into art. In my experience in photography I have actually learned a lot about a subject that I have been interested in for a while. So all in all I really do think that the arts are an important thing at our school.” – Dakota Dickson
- 220) “The arts are important to me because pictures and visuals give a huge sense of creativity. They are important in my eyes because the world would be very boring with the absence of them. Photography is a special art as well. Learning it gives different perspectives of the world around us. I also think that the arts give all different types of people the freedom to express themselves in unique ways. In the end, the arts are really important to have at schools because it provides a different outlook than just regular academics.” – McKenna White
- 221) “When I was six years old I saw my first horror movie, The Mummy, and unlike most kids I did not get any nightmares from it- instead, I developed a passion for history. I honestly believe if it wasn't for The Mummy, for the actors, writers and directors that led to it's creation I would not be the person who I am now.

More than that however, the arts have played a consistent role in my life. After I saw that film I became very interested in acting and as a child was a part of a community theatre, as a young woman I was in a production of The Spoonriver Anthology and am currently an officer for the Drama Club on my schools campus as well as the

scriptwriter for an upcoming production the club will be putting on. This production will be a series of monologues performed in the round celebrating race/culture and hopefully will be eyeopening to the struggles POC face. My point here is that the arts are more than just entertainment to me, they have become my way of educating others and a chance to make a real change in peoples lives.

The arts have inspired me, and in return I use them to inspire others in any way I can. I think the arts are one of the best things of humanity that has to offer, the visual arts especially have the ability to convey things that the written word cannot- there are extraordinary for that and I cannot imagine any life without them.

I am lucky to have had the chance to be exposed to the arts in a school setting as well, Art History, Photography, Journalism, Mixed Media, Drama, Band- and I can see what the arts mean to my classmates as well. Just as they give me a voice, they give them a chance to unwind from the stressors of school and flourish in an environment that encourages individuality, which to a teenager means more than words can ever describe.

So, yes- the arts are extremely important to me but I think their place in any young persons life is essential to development.” – Lena Ishel Rodriguez

- 222) “The arts are important to me because of three reasons. The first reason is I simply enjoy it, it makes me happy to sing and its fun to do it. The next reason is performing gives me a rush which was bad at first but felt amazing the next times. The final reason is I get to meet new people who enjoy the arts just as much as I do. Those are the reasons why I love the performing arts.” – Aidan Zelaya
- 223) “Dance is important to me because it helps me express myself in many ways that I can't really explain. If I wasn't able to have this opportunity I don't know what I would do because I really love dance. This class also helps me prepare for my future because it's something that I know that I will continue doing.” – Gladiss
- 224) “Dance is important to me because I'm able to take out all my emotions while dancing. I love dance.” – Aliyah
- 225) “The arts are important to me because it gives students the advantages to release/ express how we feel through dance or other arts. It also gives students to explore ore creativity.” - Emalyn Labo
- 226) “If there was no arts I think there would be more suicide , drug crimes , kids in danger and less enjoyment in life. Everyone who is in all types of Arts get to have that space in their heart where they can say "I LOVE MYSELF !!!” – Denny
- 227) “Performing arts are really important to have in school because it is a way for us students to show our own unique abilities. Another thing is that having performing arts gives students the opportunity to create new friends and get out of their comfort zone. As for me, dance has now become something really important because it has taught me many interesting things and it is a class that I enjoy coming too.” – Anilu
- 228) “The VAPA programs with school are significant and greatly impactful with schools because the programs allow students to not only express their self in a unique and divergent way that solely identifies themselves as truly themselves, but they also permit students to break away from their personal issues and apply their personal taste to which ever artist criteria they deem enjoyable. VAPA gives students the chance to broaden their horizon, find a new way of life, and also just break away from the stress of everyday life. VAPA is truly a life changing program.” – Javier
- 229) “I think the art is important to me, because we learn about new pieces of music. I actually love doing orchestra, it made everyone come together as one we all have a good bond with each other . Orchestra has made me a better person in reading music and understanding the purpose of music.” – Alexis Bernabe
- 230) “The arts are important to me because it helps me express myself through music and learn something new. I always turn to music when I'm feeling down and upset. Music makes me feel better and relaxed while the world is horrible around me. Music is my escape from reality and my favorite sanctuary.” – Madison Ruffin
- 231) “The arts are important to me because there are different types of things artists could come up with to make a photo different but also keep the photo the same with just a little change in contrast or the formation of the photo. For example, different contrasts, photo shops, formations and different colors. Art allows us to be more creative and open minded with the different things we could do to a photo. If you think about it, you're assigned a photo

and you could do a million different things to make it more interesting. It's all in your imagination and the arts help your imagination expand. The arts are also important to me because there's no exact answer to an assignment that says to photo shop a picture because you could do that in a lot of ways. On the other hand, in different subjects like math and history there's an exact answer and you can't really put any imagination into that." – Karina Sanchez

- 232) "Art is important to me because it is a form of tangible expression. Unlike math, science, or history where there is only straightforward answers, art allows a person to have spectrum possibilities in the way they execute and interpret it. Additionally, art is another form of communication, where one piece could be shared with the whole world to express the artists' personal world views, feelings, values, traditions or whatever meaning may underlie within a piece. Art unifies the world because over generations, we can still admire works of artists like Leonardo Da Vinci, which has taught me that art has the magic to cross time and oceans." - Jascha B. ORH
- 233) "To Whom it may concern, I enjoy being in band because we do something that we can learn from and have fun at the same time. I think the arts are important because the notes actually help you in math, and also because if you have deliberate practice, you may end up being an extraordinary musician if you put a lot of effort in to it. For example, all our hard work payed off when we performed at the Chula Vista Starlight Parade because after all the hours of practice we had, we ended up getting a trophy." - Sincerely, Sinai Cano, NCM-8th grade
- 234) "I like band because you get to learn how to play an instrument and also you get to have so much when your in it with so many activities. I think the arts are important because you get to show who you are expressing your feelings. An enjoyable memory would be the starlight parade since it was our first one and we got to march and play for the people while they were cheering and having fun." - Jose Ortega, NCM-8th grade
- 235) "To whom it may concern, the band program is important to me because I am able to be myself in my band classroom. I was always into music but when i got put in band, it made music more important to me. Now that I'm learning the alto saxophone, it's made me want to learn more instruments. Band has definitely changed my life. I have so many memories in band with my friends. For example, the Starlight parade. Even though it was painful standing and rehearsing all day, I would love to go back and do it all again." Brenda Romero, NCM- 8th grade
- 236) "I like band because I enjoy the flute and hanging out with my friends. I think the arts are important because people can get inspirational and make a new song that might be a sensation. My most enjoyable moment is when we went on the Starlight Parade." - Armando Nicanor, NCM 8th grade
- 237) "To whom it may concern, band has been a wonderful experience, band is like a family to me everyone becomes so close and when you are with them it's like all your worries go away. I think the arts are important because they are from of self expression not everyone can or wants to be athletic were they go play to have fun to most people the are arts are like sports and they dedicate a lot of time to keep the program running. I remember my first band parade, it was one of the best moments of life. we all had fun, laughed and played around with the high school band which we have gotten really close to. We even got a trophy. These are memories that will last a life time and I hope everyone has a chance to experience something like it." - Alexandra Rodriguez Perez, NCM-8th grade
- 238) "To whom it may concern, I like band because at first I didn't know how to play an instrument but since I joined band I've been learning how to play the trumpet. At first I wasn't able to blow air into the trumpet to make a sound but now I can make high pitched and low sounds. Band is a great experience for NCMS." - Mizraim Morales, NCM-8th grade
- 239) "I like band because music is such a beautiful thing. With band I got to learn how to play an instrument that I never thought I would've learned to play and fell in love with it. I think the arts are important because we build bonds, I met 4 amazing best friends in band. Band is more like a family not a class, we all look out for each other and help each other. It's something we enjoy and can get a future in. An enjoyable memory I have in band is when we did our first parade, of course it wasn't very good but we got 3rd place so it couldn't have been too bad! Band is something that none of us will ever forget." - Nyah Brawner, NCMS - 8th grade
- 240) "To whom it may concern, I like band because it's fun and it's a easy class to make friends. I think the arts are important because it teaches kids how to communicate with each other and how to become a leader. My best memory in band was when we went to band pageant, it's was fun when we got to meet other kids from other schools and all play the same music." -Angelina Lopez, NCM-8th grade

- 241) "I like being in band because I enjoy learning how to play an instrument and someday, when we grow up, we can teach other kids how to also play an instrument. I believe that band and performing arts are important because if students don't get a chance to learn how to actually play an instrument, the students won't be as happy and educated. In my opinion, the best memory of band I had was when we went to the band pageant, we got to witness professional bands play and play ourselves." - Shannen Dangazo, NCMS - 7th Grade
- 242) "I like band because its fun to play instrument and learn how to play it. I think arts are important because its important for student to learn new this that are fun to do in school, that's what makes school fun. An enjoyable moment in band was when I finally learned to play a song. Not only is it fun to play but it also takes time and practice to achieve this, which his what makes it fun." – Johnny Catapang, NCM- 8th
- 243) "To whom it may concern, I enjoy being in band because I like performing to the members of the audience and I can demonstrate what I have learned. I think the arts are important because it is a way to express yourself and show the world how you feel about certain situations. One enjoyable memory I had in band was during Band Pageant while the class performed Oye Como Va and Happy." - John Berumen, NCMS - 8th Grade
- 244) "Band is something that I like very much, most of the fun or joy I have in school is in band. This helps me cheer up for the upcoming periods, not saying that the next periods are horrible but band helps me want to do more work. I think the arts are important because most people can take something from it, whether they make it their future job, a way of escaping from something, or just to have fun. An enjoyable memory I had in band was when we went marching in the Starlight Parade, it was tiring but also very fun. Seeing all the people cheer us on was a great experience and I hope other people can also experience this in the future." - John Soriente, NCM-8th grade
- 245) "I like band because it invites you to a whole new world were people can share and make friends while learning music to share with other people. An enjoyable memory of band was going to my first band pageant at Southwestern College playing to a thousand people which wouldn't have happen if I didn't join band. Band means a lot to me because I get to experience things I probably won't be able to do again, and that's why I like band." - Noah Barron, NCM - 8th Grade
- 246) "To whom it may concern, I like band because it's a class were you actually work together as a team so you can play the music. I think the arts are important because it's a time that you get to do something fun and really enjoy it. I remember when I went to my first parade and it was the starlight parade it was an enjoyable memory because as we were marching and playing the music the people were cheering for us and I felt proud of myself and my band classmates. Band is a class that I really love and its important to me." - Rosa Chavez, NCM- 8th grade
- 247) "To whom it may concern, I like band because it is a fun experience and you get to learn something new that is not something basic like English or math, band is important to me because you get to perform and do concerts at places that you never went before. I think the arts are important because it is a way to do something fun and you create memories that will never fade. Overall it is a experience that you will never forget. One enjoyable memory that i would never forget is band pageant in seventh grade because that was my first performance in front of a lot of people and I remember being so nervous but it was a great experience that made me think that I really want to be in band. Another enjoyable memory about band was the starlight parade and it was our first parade and it was awesome because you are used to watching the parade and then all of a sudden you are in the parade yourself and all the energy from the crowd and they are cheering for you is great." - Mariana Meza, NCMS-8th Grade
- 248) "I love band because I can meet new people and have fun in class while playing our instruments. I think the arts are important because you could learn about different cultures and explore more. An enjoyable memory I have is the Starlight parade, it was very fun and 25,000 people cheered for us." - Lizbeth Olague, NCM-8th grade
- 249) "To whom it may concern, i like band because we get to go on competitions and make new friends along the way, but mostly because being in band is like being in an other family. I think the arts are important because we get to experience different type of cultures. One of the best memory I have from band is the starlight parade because it was our first trophy." - Manuel Jesus Becerra, NCMS 8th grade
- 250) "The arts are important because it lets kids express and find themselves in different ways. The arts give kids a hobby so they just don't sit at home doing nothing, it gives kids something productive to do. The arts also help kids make friends because for many people making friends is not easy. I'm in band and the best memory I had is when we performed in the starlight parade, but we had to wear school uniforms because we didn't have money to buy band uniforms. I liked this memory because there were 25,000 people there and they were all cheering for us

which meant they liked us, and we won 3rd place which made us happy. The arts need more funding so they can be noticed and more people would want to join. In conclusion the arts help kids express themselves, make friends, and gives kids something productive to do.” - Cielo Rodriguez, NCM - 8th grade

- 251) “I enjoy band because now that we are getting more experience and becoming better musicians so it gives us more privileges such as performing at parades and concerts. Also I believe that band and the arts program itself is important because it teaches students many things like how to play an instrument or how to act or dance, but to me it is important because to me band is like my family and it taught me many things along the way. Finally, a memorable moment that I've had in band is the starlight parade, it was a very enjoyable time because as we played many people cheered us on and it made me feel that we were the best although we placed 3rd in that parade.” - Issak Fregoso, NCM-8th grade
- 252) “I love band because it's a class where I actually feel like I belong in, where I actually have fun while learning, one that doesn't completely stress me out. The arts are very important because it makes up our culture. The arts are everywhere, on your radio, in your house, on your TV, thanks to people like us. If you were to take away visual arts, the world would be the most boring place ever. Not only that, but band helps a lot when it comes to things like math or social skills. I remember when I went to the Starlight Parade to play, it was the most fun event I've ever had the chance to attend, and it's all thanks to band. I can still remember the smiles we put on all of the 25,000 people that attended. Band will always be somewhere I can truly enjoy, and without it I don't think I can actually care about school.” - Julissa Fierro, NCM-8th grade
- 253) “I believe that the performing arts are seriously important. And on behalf of everyone who loves the performing arts, the arts aren't just some petty things you do in middle school and high school. All these things.. All these things are an escape from some ones life maybe. And to be honest, not funding the performing arts would be careless. It's sort off like, you see someone on stage. About to sing their heart out, but only one lyric comes out of their mouth because you cut them off. What about a dancer? A dancer about to leap across the stage, but stop midway because you cut them off. An artist, painting something magnificent, but they stop just before they finish. Just because you cut them off. I sincerely hope that you fund the performing arts. They aren't just the performing arts.. They're a huge fragment of our lives.” - Alexandra Alcantara, NCMS, 8th Grade
- 254) “I like band because it shows our characteristic in it. Also, I like band because it shows our talent using instruments and playing songs to many people. Lastly, band is something different from the other classes, it lets us do something we have never done before in our lives.” -Jason Castillo, NCM-8th grade
- 255) “One of the reasons I think performing arts are important is because you can experience a lot of fun things for example going to band pageant, going to the Starlight Parade, etc. Another reason why performing arts are important is because you get out of your old same boring routine because and you go to places where you haven't been in. One of the best memories I had was trying to save two periods instead of having all student in one class but if we didn't have two periods we wouldn't do all the fun stuff. The last reason why I like band is because in this class I feel like I'm at home because everyone understands me (our band fam).” - Jaime Felix, NCMS-8th grade
- 256) “I love band because I've always been interested in music my entire life, and I love learning how to read and play music. Not only that but with a clarinet! Playing an instrument that's played in orchestra and in pieces in movie blockbusters, such as Star Wars is absolutely incredible. I was fascinated when I learned how to play the main theme of Star Wars as long as the song Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. I think the arts are important because the arts is way of expression, storytelling, and all just one emotional journey, but a good one. Sports have been acknowledged in our school by a lot, which is a good thing, but I don't think anyone knows there's even a band that goes to actual parades and performances in our school. No one announces our accomplishments while they announce our sports teams', which I find unjust. Music is apart of everyone's life, it helps express the emotions you can't find the words for, and the rest applies to every single class that is apart of the performing arts program. Performing arts unite people as I have found a family within band, all my classmates are my friends and we're just one big family who make beautiful sounds which leads to beautiful music. Every memory I've had that included band was an amazing memory and makes me wish to create more, which tells a lot. All the parades, performances, even just band class in general are all memorable to me, especially my band family.” - Jemariz Arzobal, NCM- 8th grade
- 257) “Band is so much more than just a band. The day I stepped onto those fields, we became a family. We became One, a whole. It helped me ease away my worries, and pride emitted from me when magic poured out of those various instruments. The instruments itself even taught me a lesson. Trumpets, saxophones, clarinets, flutes,

oboes, etc, they all have their own unique sound and shape, but each beautiful in the sounds they produce. When you put it all together, all of the unique voices joining together into one beautiful piece, it's just breathtaking. When people say band isn't a sport, they have never been so wrong. We work several hours a day, practice through any weather, and do it all happily. We win medals and trophies as much as the other team, but at the same time, we're on the sidelines, cheering our fellow friends along. I could say so much more about how much band has affected me positively, but I believe I've made my point. I think the arts are important because they help so many people figure themselves out. We all started off as shy people, who were put in band because they had nowhere else to go. Now, we're more confident, with the people surrounding us making us forget the rest of our worries and fears. One very enjoyable memory I've had with my band, was nothing very outrageous, but special to me. It was that moment where we just finished our music, the moment before the crowd erupts in cheers, and you're just standing there, breathless, but smiling." - Cyrille Morales, NCM-8th grade

- 258) "The arts is an important thing in today's society and I think you see it a lot more lately. It can be shown or expressed in many different ways now a days. To me, art is a way to show emotion or simply express one self in how he or she see's things. The arts is important to me because it is fun and can be very interesting in many dynamic ways. The arts can be a very beautiful thing to see and experience. I use it to express myself and just have fun. The arts is and will always be an important thing in today's world because it is so unique. Art has made an impact in my life in many ways and helped me show what i like. All in all, I believe the arts is something that simply will never die out as it has made a huge impact in society and is used worldwide." – Alfonso Solis, ORH
- 259) "I like band because you can learn new and interesting music. I also like band because it inspires you to do better in practicing your music and that makes you better at playing your instrument. I also like band because you are basically learning a new language because if you go up to someone and ask them for a name of a note they are not going to know it unless they have been involved in music." - Pedro Casillas, NCM- 8th grade
- 260) "The arts are important to me for one reason, and one reason only. The arts allow me to express myself. I, like any other person, have problems of my own, and music/singing really allows me to connect to the words of the song. In other words, music is my escape from reality. As cheesy as it sounds, it's true. Whenever I feel like I'm done with life, I put on my headphones and block out the world." – Faith Sunga
- 261) "The arts are important to me because I get the chance to showcase my singing and dancing abilities to people that enjoy watching. You can also make new friends that share the same abilities as you and it's fun to work in the arts." – Malia Deguzman
- 262) "I truly respect and admire arts in all categories. Each piece of art, such as photographs, music, movies, paintings, cartoons, etc. gives me an idea on a new project. I appreciate arts, because it observes numerous perspectives, another way to look at the world, it teaches people how to attack a problem with different solutions, and art can be used to advocate what cannot be said. In my leisure time, I tend to play the piano, and doodle. I use these skills to vent out my emotions, and I realize people appreciate it more than I do. This shows that I can use my art like a therapy session. In this past year, I have realized that art is everywhere, such as the formation of keys on a keyboard, the patterns on a curtain, how food is arranged, or the design of a chair. Art cannot and will not be avoided, and everyone does it. Because everyone does a specific type of art, I believe as a human race we can connect with one another and appreciate art together, which is really important to me." - Emmanuel Cometa, Otay Ranch High School
- 263) "I like band because I get to learn how to play an instrument and I'm able to express my self through music. I think the arts are important because it gives people a chance to express their feelings and to do what they love. Enjoyable memories that I have from band is that I would have fun with my best friend in high school at band pageant and parades and we would play together." - Kyle Philpott-Guerrero, NCM-8th Grade
- 264) "The arts are important to me because it give me a chance to do something productive when I'm at school. The arts such as orchestra is important to me because it gives me a purpose to come to school which is to play the violin. Of course there is my sport of wrestling but I have loved playing the violin ever since I was in elementary school and the arts gives me a chance to challenge myself." – Dache Alfonso
- 265) "Having a Visual and Performing Arts curriculum in my schedule is a tremendous advantage for me in that I am able to use my creativity rather than knowledge at one point in my day. All day long, I would be straining to recall the hidden message of a poem that even the poet himself wouldn't have thought of, or use antiderivative equations just to determine the area of a rectangle. In my orchestra class, there is more to it than knowledge and

skills; I can express myself freely in every piece. My thoughts and my emotions, it embraces them for me.” - Olympian High School, Student in Ms. Opdahl's Orchestra class

- 266) “Musical arts are important to me because it helps show one of the many unique hidden talents about me.” Alex Ceja
- 267) “The arts are important because it helps in the development of each individual person. It requires a lot of discipline and practice. We need the arts for many purposes in our life. It may help someone to distress or may be a part of their culture.” – Fernanda Torres
- 268) “Since I was 10, I loved to (try to) play the piano, recorders, and the violin. I grew up with instruments and they have made my life more lively and better in many ways. When you are playing music, it seems to make everything fade away from the world. I forget about those missing assignments, that girl who doesn't like me, or even problems outside of school. When you are sad, you play music. When you are happy, you play music. When you are border, you still play music. I've been an advanced viola player since middle school and it's always fun to paly an instrument because you meet new people, make new friends, you lean new things, skills, and you get an opportunity that millions out there don't, you expand your knowledge of both music and life. It's not always about playing your instrument but sometimes letting your knowledge grow, meet new people, not to mention going places in life. The arts are hug thing in my life, I play the harmonica when I'm feeling groovy, I play the viola when I find good music, and I play the trumpet when I'm bored and feel like blasting music. Learning an instrument is a big and special opportunity and it has some great potential to both youth and adults.” – Justin Flores Delarosa
- 269) “For me the art is important because you can imagine and create new things, art is something a person create in order to demonstrate their feeling and emotions in the creation. The arts have influenced me a lot in my life since I was a little boy; when I was in middle school I found that arts are the best way to relax and see life. In this world there a bunch of different types of art it can be photography, design, painting, sculptures and more; for me the most interesting art is painting and photography, both have such a different concept and meaning in my life.” - Giancarlo Ornelas, Otay Ranch High School (ORHS)
- 270) “Art is thing that can be use for almost anything, I'm not just talking about picture art or paintings I'm talking the for of art. Art is something that you describe that you really are interested in, for example there people use the art the describe martial arts but it has nothing to do with art, it is a form of art to that type of form. There is another way people use the word art and it is to describe something that they really like for example people say that an object like a statue is art. Art could be a really important thing but not to all, art is a way that people use to relax and unwind. There are many ways that art can be use for relaxing. It is one of the best ways to do so.” – Jose Alfaro
- 271) “Good evening. My name is Dayna Hill and I am a senior at Bonita Vista High. I am currently in my fourth year of the Vocal Music Department, Assistant to the Director of The Music Machine, and working PR for the department. I have been singing my whole life, practically since I could talk. I've performed with the BVM Mixed Choir, Baron Concert Choir, Sound Unlimited, and Music Machine for the past six years and I have learned so much beyond singing and dancing. These choirs gave me irreplaceable memories and friendships I know will last a lifetime. I've gained leadership skills which will help me through my journey and on to my lifetime career. Most importantly, performing has given me the self confidence to speak in front of large crowds and stand up for myself and my values. Although I am graduating this upcoming June, I hope VAPA will continue to inspire students in the Sweetwater Union High School District for many years to come. Thank you for your time.” - Dayna Hill
- 272) “Dear Board,
- I think it's important that you know how much the arts have had an impact on my life and how much happier and successful I am because of it. In general the art program at my school could only use help rather than cuts as far as giving students more creative opportunities, however the one art program that greatly excels in particular at Bonita is our show choirs. I love being a part of the Music Machine, it's not only taught me how to read music, maximize my talent and potential as a singer-dancer, but it's given me a home too. Being surrounded by people who love art and music just as much as I do makes me feel safe and relaxed. The arts programs in public schools are so important because there are so many kids who have no creative outlet. Personally, there was so much pent-up anger and sadness inside of me until I became a part of something bigger than myself. I do well in school, I take AP classes, I get straight As, but none of that really mattered until I had The Music Machine to support and motivate me to do well not just because I could but because I wanted to.

On a more serious note, I stick out every day at school and in public because I have a sudden-onset speech impediment that causes me to stutter a lot. I used to be an avid speech and debate competitor, but now I have almost no confidence even just speaking in front my class since it began occurring. However, singing gives me so much confidence and being able to convey my emotions without stuttering is so important and relieving for me. Two hours a day I gain back the confidence I used to have while speaking. It's something little that I hold onto and it gives me hope that my speech will get better again. I don't know what I'd do without my little piece of hope.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Lange

- 273) “If Art didn't already exist, I would have invented it. Art has helped me cope with life's hardships. The only good thing about being insane is making good Art. There's something about suffering that makes Art deep and interesting. I personally believe that the real geniuses aren't those who can memorize equations and solve long math problems or make vague conclusions based on a series of scientific assumptions, real geniuses are those that can invent and create. Those that can make you feel emotions with liquid colors. Those that can capture a moment in its entirety. Those that can find the perfect combination of words to tell a story. Art transports you to a dimension in which your whole being is entirely free. Art is honest, it's real, it's pure.” Victoria Martinez
- 274) “Why the arts important? The arts are so important because they are languages that all people speak that cut across racial, cultural, and social barriers. They provide opportunities for self-expression, by showing it through their art. Art has its own language, its own meaning, and can tell a lot just by looking at it. Some fine arts you can tell a whole story just by looking at it. Some people spend so much time mastering the art that they are doing.” – Jacob Mejia
- 275) “Art can mean a lot of different things to all kinds of different people. Art can show you things you don't regularly see with your bare eyes. It helps you see how other people feel without them having to put it in words. Art can help me motivate, educate and many other things for deeper understanding. Art can bring purpose and meaning to human life, we see art everywhere! I believe everything God made is art, their's all different kinds of art.” – Victor Murillo
- 276) “The arts is important to me in so many ways, it's hard to put it into words. I've always been interested in acting and drama, but it was never something I could continuously spend money on. When I went into middle school I was in a financial crisis, which means I couldn't spend anything for pleasure; I couldn't pay for acting classes. I thought I wasn't going to be able to do one of the things that brought me immense joy, but I was ecstatic to find out that Rancho had an acting program. Every time we have a play, it brings everyone together and no matter what we do, or what part we have, we're always happy. At school we have close to six periods, which can cause a lot of stress already, but when we are able to let loose and have fun, (all the while still learning about the history of the arts) we love it. Thank you for your time.” -Celestia Ghemanth.
- 277) “Hi, I'm Samantha Reagan. I attend Rancho Del Rey middle and I am in Drama and Harmonia. I love both of these classes very much. I auditioned for Harmonia when I was in 7th grade and was very happy when I was accepted into the singing program taught by Ms. Sudderth. It is an awesome advisory class and gives me an opportunity to be in a singing program and still do my elective of drama. Drama is also an amazing class that lets me express my creativity, enjoy fun times with my friends, and just be myself. We get to audition for plays, act alongside our peers, and even learn how to work around backstage. It really does get me up in the morning because we get to read through plays, perform, and learn about the history of drama. Also, drama does help me personally in other classes. For example in English when you learn about William Shakespeare, if you are in drama, you will have a head start on the topic and be able to help other kids understand it as well. I hope that people will be able to experience the same joys of drama and Harmonia with the lovely Ms. Sudderth, like me, for years to come.”
- 278) “The arts are important to me because it has become a big part of our society. Not only is it a big part of our society, but it also lets us express ourselves. Today, many people neglect self-analyzing thought. Going into the arts is a way to break an introverted lifestyle, or to just express ourselves through dance, theatre, choir, etc. Once you take an arts class, you don't feel forced to do it. All of your feelings go into your acting or dancing and it feels right. It makes you feel like a real person. The arts are important to me because it allows us to develop an outgoing personality and have some fun while doing it. I have gained this experience by going into the arts myself and I recommend this to many others because it makes school exciting and more enjoyable.” – Robert Camacho

- 279) "I am a drama student. To me, as someone who is participating in a VAPA program, the Arts are important. In visual and performing arts classrooms, we are able to express ourselves in a way we would not or could not in another classroom. These programs matter because they help students find themselves, their talent, their passion. It is for those who are motivated by the Arts, who might discover something they would want to do for the future. Visual and performing arts helps us to interact, to get out there, to do things with ourselves we might not be able to do somewhere else. Being in this kind of program gives us a certain kind of pride, the type that shows people who we are, what we like to do, what we are learning. These classes give us something that deviates from the mundane tasks that often fill a students life; they give us something to look forward to. Of course, all the other school programs are important, but the Arts is something that should be equally important, because it matters to teachers, students, and those who give it life." – Anonymous, RDRM Drama
- 280) "The arts are very important to me because they are able to give my day a splash of color. Whether it be guitar lessons, my drama elective, or the occasional singing class, they make me feel so happy. I personally cannot imagine my life without music, as it has played such a large role since I was young, and drama gives my day an interesting twist. The arts make an average day an interesting day, and if you want kids to be excited for school, give them something that will make them say "Wow!" Not everyone likes STEAM, coding, etc. Some people want something different. Something FUN. Where will the future musicians be? The future actors? They will be here in the VAPA Program. The future is in our schools, so it's up to us to make it wonderful." – Anonymous, RDRM Drama, Guitar, Singing
- 281) "We do on stage things that are supposed to happen off. Which is a kind of integrity, if you look on every exit as being an entrance somewhere else." — Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*
This shows that without having visual and performing arts how are we supposed to know how to express ourselves, be ourselves, and basically get ourselves out of the comfort zone. With drama and choral music i have been able to begin to be myself more. I've always been so shy and not really wanting to talk or to meet new people. With drama as well as choral music I have led myself to begin to step out and let the world know who I am. With VAPA you are allowed to show who you really are when onstage as well as offstage. When onstage you get to express yourself through the arts. With the choral music department it has helped me cope with things by letting me express my feelings through singing. As well as when we perform in both choral and drama you are able to shine and get over being scared of performing and let people know what you can do. Without VAPA in our district our schools will face something like "The Dark Ages" the time of period where there was no drama and basically no entertainment. The arts are important to me because they have helped me cope and become who I am today not only the arts but as well as Ms. Sudderth I couldn't ask for anyone better." – Coralin Pacleb, RDRM, Drama and Choral Music
- 282) "Drama is important to me because it helps me enjoy coming to school and have something to look forward to during the school week. Drama is a motivation for me to come to school." – Pricilla Ozuna, RDRM Drama
- 283) "The Arts are important to me because it has helped me become more comfortable with who I am and be able to communicate with others. I've been in drama for almost two years, and I remember the first few months I was really quiet and shy. I only knew a few people and didn't know how to introduce myself to new people. As time progressed, the activities in drama helped me to open up to new people and be able to express myself. Now I am able to talk to others more easily and fluently. Without drama, I wouldn't have the same confidence I do today. That is why the arts are important to me." – Victoria RDRM Drama
- 284) "I have been in drama for two years now. Though middle school is stereotypically known for the most embarrassing two years of your life, being in the visual arts has turned that upside down. Even when you're not performing, it always feel like you're under the biggest spotlight. During elementary school, I despised having to do a presentation due to anxiety. However, drama gave me the opportunity to step out of my shell. Also, I have made the best relationships with people because of drama. Eternally, I am grateful to have been give this chance to be a stronger human being. Without this elective, I wouldn't be the person I am now." – Kayla Miranda, RDRM Drama
- 285) "Why the Arts Are Important To Me" well theres a lot of good explanations why but the one art that is most important to me is dance. Dancing to me is like my air, I live and breath it. Drama has helped me become a better performer, and performing a dance has always been a dream of mine. Also, drama and dance have made my life a little easier with school and my personal life, like drama has helped me with my citizenship and dance has given me flexibility and strength for subjects like Physical Education. But, there are a lot more reasons why these two

magnificent Arts are so important and I can't wait to see what they can help me become or do in the future.” – Izaiah Reyes, RDRM Drama Dance (hip hop/break/pop’n lock)

- 286) “Drama is very important to me. Drama is the reason I wake up every morning because I'm so excited to go to class where I can be myself and nobody can judge me. In drama we learn the history of drama, how to write plays, how to speak out in front of an audience, how to use emotion, how to dress for a character, and the proper makeup to make a character more believable. In this class you will make friends that will make special and unforgettable memories with you that I believe no other class can do. Drama helps me prepare for what I want to do in the future, which is act thanks to my wonderful and supportive drama teacher Ms. Sudderth. Drama is not just some class, it's a lifestyle.” – Ashley Spain, RDRM Drama
- 287) “The Arts are t important to me because its helping teach me the skills I need to accomplish my dream of being a professional actor in theater, and a specialist in drama plays. Everything that goes on in drama class is not only beneficial for my future career, but inspires me too go big and do what I feel makes me and all my classmates happy too! Drama class is the highlight of my day, it brings me up and also helps me focus on school and homework. The arts help me in every way, from making my day to teaching me to work hard if i want something done. To conclude, the arts are importance to me because it helps teach me things that can positively impact the rest of my life, and making me feel like I'm doing the right thing with my school time.” – Shani Howard, RDRM Drama
- 288) “Performing arts, such as drama, is very important to me because of how it has helped me with being more outspoken and better in vocal skills. It has also helped me with other classes such as history. For example, when my history class has a lesson connected to early theatre, it is easier for me to understand and be more interested due to already learning about how theatre started and developed through time. It also helps me, whenever I am traveling somewhere that is connected to the history of theatre, understand more and it makes me more interested into traveling more. It has also made me mire interested in reading books about Shakespeare plays, such as The Taming Of The Shrew. To conclude, Drama has helped me in many ways such as social and vocal skills, being more interested in history, and reading. This is why Performing arts are very important to me.” – Leeza Ayala, RDRM Drama
- 289) “The arts are important to me because the arts help kids to be creative. The arts are there for us to express are self and it is fun for other kids. I want to see children be in drama and work hard to see them make a career. It is a really good way to make friends and is great way to pursue teamwork. Drama wakes me up in the morning and I know that I am going to have fun in drama and make me think about my future. When I perform I feel like I am in a new world of creative thinkers and many ideas, new ideas. I chose drama because I am a creative thinker and I have new ideas I want to pursue this class. I want to succeed in this type of arts because if you take it away there won't be creative thinkers or new great ideas. Because when I know I have drama I see that it is going to be a great day.” Camila Ruiz, RDRM Drama
- 290) “My definition of the Arts: languages that all people speak even if their racial, cultural, social, educational, and economic barriers are *different*. Drama and other Visual and Preforming Arts Programs allow the means for every student to learn. I have been in Drama for the past two years, and Drama has allowed me to express my feelings and emotions on the stage. It has given me a voice that before no one would listen to. I have gained self-confidence in speaking in front of audiences because of Drama. Drama has helped me and other students immensely by allowing us to express ourselves and experience the feeling of being backstage and on stage. Thanks to drama I have felt the exhilaration of being on stage and how amazing it feels to say your lines in front of an audience. I have learned about theatre in Rome, Greece, Japan, and England. I have learned Elizabethan Vocabulary, Improvisation, how to write a play, and the types of plays such as tragedies, comedy's, and history plays. I have read amazing plays and preformed them on a stage to friends and family. I have expressed messages in plays to an audience. Drama has taught me and given me so much, and I would like other students to learn what I have learned. Thanks to Drama, I can be who I am today.” – Naomi Tanaka RDRM Drama
- 291) “I am a drama student. To me, as someone who is participating in a VAPA program, the Arts are important. In visual and performing arts classrooms, we are able to express ourselves in a way we would not or could not in another classroom. These programs matter because they help students find themselves, their talent, their passion. It is for those who are motivated by the Arts, who might discover something they would want to do for the future. Visual and performing arts helps us to interact, to get out there, to do things with ourselves we might not be able to do somewhere else. Being in this kind of program gives us a certain kind of pride, the type that shows people who we are, what we like to do, what we are learning. These classes give us something that deviates from

the mundane tasks that often fill a student's life; they give us something to look forward to. Of course, all the other school programs are important, but the Arts is something that should be equally important, because it matters to teachers, students, and those who give it life." – Anonymous RDRM Drama

- 292) "The arts are important to me because it's a way to express myself. Drama increases your self-esteem and confidence. You get to participate in teamwork, and sometimes make new friends. It helps learn expression and discipline. Drama also increases your ability to think more creatively with imagination." – Stephenie Pace, RDRM Drama
- 293) "The Arts, it isn't just a hobby anymore for me, it's a passion. It's not only a way to get away from all my problems that I'm dealing with, but it's also a place where I meet friends and create bonds that last a lifetime. It changes you, it transforms you into something that you never knew you could become. It makes you feel confident about yourself and helps you express what you truly feel inside, you don't have to put it into words. You can sing it, act it, dance it. You also get the chance to meet wonderful, talented and unique people. I had the pleasure myself in meeting wonderful people that helped me through a lot and learned from them. There's this guy I admire a lot in my drama class. He isn't afraid to show who he really is and doesn't care what anyone else thinks, he puts himself out there and just is himself, and I have to thank the arts because of it. The Arts, it unites people and you really get to know someone just by them expressing themselves through art. The Arts, it reminds me of my past, on who I was and what I had. But of course you can't be a good thespian without a good teacher. I have to thank my drama teacher for a lot. She helped me through rough times and wouldn't be where I am in the arts right now if it weren't for her. In the arts you not only meet people that change your life but you also find yourself. You find the person that was always hidden inside of you and was waiting for that spotlight to shine on it. The Arts, it helps us embrace who we really are, but not alone, we find who we are with the amazing people we meet along the way. And that's what the arts mean to me." – Max Akerlundh, RDRM Drama, Choir
- 294) "The arts, specifically drama, has impacted my life. In many ways, drama has *affected* me, my family, and many others. The ways that it has *affected* me is by allowing me to express myself, interact with others, and be happy. When I act, it allows me to feel like another person and it allows me to have a little bit more confidence. I have always been a somewhat outgoing person so when I am able to act, it allows me to put that trait to use. I get to break away from the struggles of life and at that moment just be another character. I like going to plays and being able to interact with the performers on the stage. As my teacher once said, the performers feed *off* of your reaction and if you laugh it makes them feel more confident. She also said that in TV we don't have that same connection that we do with live performances. I admire how the performers rarely make mistakes and when they do it is sort of cool because in TV if that mistake had happened then they would just cut and redo it but with live performances they have to carry on. When my family was going through some tough times, we want to go to plays to get rid of the conflict even if it was for just a little while. We have watched "The Nutcracker", and seeing those people bounce around and the music making us all so joyful. When we go to plays it lets us all have something to laugh at together and gives us something to talk about for probably a couple of days. This is why the arts are important to me. They show me that it is possible to be able to do what you want and be able to make mistakes and learn from them. It doesn't just *affect* me and make my life better because a lot of other people greatly enjoy being up there on stage or even seeing someone up there on stage." – Anthony Ocampo, RDRM
- 295) "The arts are very important to me, and probably to some of you. The main three arts that are important to me are drama, singing, and music. I have grown up around all of these things. My mom was a singer, my cousin is a actor, and I personally love music. I had started acting when I was about 7. I was in a group called DI (Destination imagination). In DI you would write your own play, cast people, and perform in different cities, if your play was very good, you could even perform in different states. I did that for about 3 years. Now, I am in a drama class, so I can learn more and be a better actor.
- 296) My Dad is in the military, so that means we move around a lot. When I was 11, we moved from Ohio to San Diego. It is really hard to pick up and move so music has gotten me through it. I would listen to it all the time. It was like a little escape, but finally I made friends and am doing fine. To some people though, they might live in a bad home, which means music is their escape from everything, which is probably important to them too. Finally, singing is also important to me. I grew up around very passionate singers. My mom would often take me to her singing classes when I was younger. When I was about 6, I took singing classes for a year. My cousin is also a singer and actor, he sometimes is in TV shows and has a small part in a movie. In conclusion, the arts are very important to me. From singing, to acting, and music. Without it, the world would be very dull." - Lux Frank, RDRM Drama, Singing, Music

- 297) “Music and Dance has always been my life. As a child, I never had a TV, so I listened to the radio. I was also bullied for being different, so I released my emotions in writing and singing music, dancing, acting, and a lot of other art forms. I was a part of my elementary school's dramatic performing arts, and was always cast as a lead. I was part of a ballet class, and did many other forms of dance in my free time. I did community service, where I would sing at fundraisers, and many competitions. I loved what I did, and was seen as a young philanthropist for all Asian communities.
- Currently, I am taking piano, guitar, singing lessons, drama, and I am in a kid's band. As a young kid, I always saw art as a hobby, or a way to express my feelings in a way that I loved. Now? I see it as my future job.” - Melanie Jimenez, RDRM Drama
- 298) “The arts are important to me because it has positively impacted my high school experience. I discovered my love for music and it taught me to really challenge myself and explore new things. Also, my orchestra teacher has showed me my potential and his belief in me has pushed me to work hard. The arts is important because it gives students the opportunity to express themselves and participate in something they love.” – Chassidy
- 299) “I've been playing violin for the past 6 years and it's one of the only things that really brings joy to me, I honestly don't know where I would be in life without these amazing programs and people I've met through the arts. Music is one of the only reasons I really attend school and actually enjoy myself.” – Anonymous
- 300) “The arts are important to me because it's a form of expression and a way to rid of any negative feelings I had throughout the school day because I get to lose myself in the songs we play. I can always count on music to make me feel better; it's a stress reliever from the tests I've taken or the long notes I took in class and it's overall just a relief to take a break and enjoy playing my instrument.” – Anonymous
- 301) “I find my freedom in the arts. Boggled down by the pressures of life, music has been one of the few pleasures I've had. Oftentimes, I'd sit and play the piano, letting the dulcet tones wash over and cleanse me my stresses.” – Bryan Thai
- 302) “The arts are important to me because it allows for the best form of self-expression. It gives students the opportunity to express their inner personality without even saying a single word sometimes. And within a relatively dull school environment, it's the most magical thing any student, any person could ask for. The arts are the only things that add color to this monochrome world.” – Jacob Factora
- 303) “The arts are important to me because they're needed and useful. They are languages that all people speak that cut across racial, cultural, social, educational, and enhance cultural appreciation and awareness. Not to mention that they are symbol systems as important as letters and numbers. Most importantly they provide the means for every student to learn.” – Lizbeth Sanchez
- 304) “The arts are important to me because they give me an outlet to express myself freely. They allow my creativity to take form. The arts have truly made such a positive influence in my life.” -Trina Fink
- 305) “As a dancer when I preform or even while I rehearse I feel that I can connect with myself. Dancing is very personal to me as it is a form of expression and self exploration. It has taught me discipline and to push myself past my boundaries.” - Aletse Fojaco-Weeler
- 306) “As a high school senior, I have only been exposed to 3 years in art courses, Design in Mixed Media, Photography and AP Art History. But within those periods of time, I have discovered how the arts in general are an integral part of society and human beings. Initially, art is expressive, it is vital for humans to express themselves in the form of art. Art not only allows you to express yourself, but your creations can also be viewed by an audience, allowing them to stand in your perspective. And that, for me, is what captures the beauty of art. It can be shared, manipulated, critiqued, and appreciated. The vast expanse of art knows no limits, and it can take on various forms. That is how I define art.” - Ryan Dial
- 307) “The arts are important to me, it can help me express myself. Researching and being inspired by others helps me learn more and expand my ideas. The arts create everyone to express themselves and be creative. It takes time and effort to learn new techniques although you learn from others you can come up with your own techniques.

There is critical thinking involved because you come up with your own ideas, it's really good to think outside the box. Do things have never done before and experiment with different ideas." – Raquel Hernandez

308) "My name is Rebecka Ibarra and I have been in show choir for two years now and am also in dance P.E.. I have been able to gain amazing experiences performing and rehearsing every day that have vastly impacted me as a person and I have gained skills that will benefit me for the rest of my life. I was never financially able to take dance or voice lessons so being able to finally improve my skills and achieve dreams that I've had my whole life is amazing. Kids who excel in subjects like math are always rewarded in school while students who are talented in the arts don't get as many opportunities to do something that they love while still in school."

309) "The arts are important to me because it shows a way of creativity and being unique with my own style. I like the idea by learning from one another and helping one another. It provides a way to show my own perspective of skills while learning.: - Allyson Masumoto

310) "In my experience with the arts, I have been able to express myself. I grew up in a theatrical ensemble and performing with a diverse group of wonderful people still makes me feel accepted. I was nervous to enter middle school because I was insecure and I wanted to fit in. I wanted to find something that would make me truly happy and when I joined the choir, I found a source of happiness.

It's nice to wake up, knowing there's something to look forward to because it will make you feel so much joy." – Nia Aguinaldo

311) "The arts are important to me because it enables me to discover myself in a creative way. There are so many different forms of art that I believe is interesting to learn about. Things such as learning to draw and paint is good to know, so that later in life, I can use those same creative skills to make something. As well as being aware of all the forms of art, so that I can admire it, and someday do something similar. I think arts are important because its the creative way of life that lets people express themselves in any way they want to. If people are able to show artistic ideas, others can learn and do even more with it. Therefore, I believe that arts are important enough so that I can appreciate how unique someone can be, and try to be creative myself." – Aleila Chappell

312) "Hello, I just wanted to say that the arts are really important to me and to everyone because I think it helps build character and it expands students' creativity. Personally, I've been in the arts since the beginning of my middle school career. I took guitar and choir in middle school and all of high school I've dedicated myself to show choir and now I'm president of Sound Unlimited, I perform with Music Machine and I also perform with Lady Tones. To me the arts is a way of coping with all of the stress I have at home, at school, and in society. When I'm in the Bolles theatre rehearsing or at a competition performing, I can forget about all of my problems and just be myself and do what I enjoy doing most, performing. It has given me a sense of direction of what I want to do in life. And I want to thank you VAPA for giving me that opportunity." -

Sincerely, Liliana Topete

313) "I can honestly say that I couldn't imagine my life without the arts specifically dance. Dance is my happy place and there has never been a day that I have not wanted to go to class. Through dance you can learn so many things about yourself and many life lessons that are used outside the classroom. Lastly I think the arts are so important because it brings all sorts of different people together over a common passion. This is why the arts are so important to me." – Daisy Ortiz

314) "I have been enrolled in SCPA visual arts since seventh grade. Now, a Senior at Chula Vista High School, I have experienced all that the program of arts has offered to me: two years of VAPA Art Summer Camp, two years of AP Studio Art, endless weeks of stage work in which we design and create the theatrical sets. I am so proud of my accomplishments, and am in awe of the accomplishments of the people around me. to have been exposed to so many different art forms- dance, music, theater, ect., I have been irreversibly altered in my view of the world. I look around me and I now interpret my surroundings as an unfinished canvas- or rather, a mural. We all have our creativity to contribute to this world, and as we grow, the mural grows with us. We learn from those working next to us, and they learn from those next to them. We are an expanding world, becoming more and more exquisite as we refine and change. For art, any form of art, is an essential mode of communication, and thus the heart of a community." -Ramona Demotto

- 315) “As an eleventh grade student, i am currently taking two art electives: AP Art History and ROP Photography. These courses have helped me widen my creativity by changing my perspective on the meaning behind each piece and just life in general. People might think, "Oh, they just took a picture of a lamp post, anyone can do that." I'm going to be honest, that was me before. However, if you learned the different styles and techniques such as tone, color, and position, it is actually quite difficult to capture a decent picture. Same goes for artists, they do not just "splatter" paint onto a blank canvas, there has to be an emotional significance to it. But what is the purpose of knowing all of this "useless" stuff? If you think about it, works such as Leonardo DaVinci's The Last Supper or Andy Warhol's Marilyn Diptych both shaped society today in a cultural way. Without them, we would not be as internally diverse and our society would be bland and boring. Bland and Boring? Not my type, I would rather get eaten by zombies. This is why the arts are important! It is such as important element in our lives and people do not acknowledge it as much in comparison to sports. Although both are equally important to me, the arts convey multiple feelings an individual can have. In addition, it can display what an individual cannot express externally, which is why I admire many artists. The fact that certain people have the ability to distinguish an indescribable emotion onto a canvas or photograph is mind blowing to me.” – Reina Corpus
- 316) “The arts are important to me because it is a way to express yourself through art. Its also a way to see life from a different artistic way, to fulfill ones imagination. As for photography it is a way to capture the timeless moments of life. Art opens up a door for someone to put their thoughts into a piece of artworks. Arts should be important to everyone, you do not have to be a great painter or drawer, you could be a photographer musician, or actor. These are just some things that make the arts important to me.” – Serena Pendleton
- 317) “Art helps me see the world from a whole different perspective. They are fascinating and are very inspiring. My favorite form of art would have to be music. Music acts as an outlet for people that are going through tough times. For the most part, art keeps people out of trouble. Without art the world would be boring and we would have no history.” – Michael Apan
- 318) “I truly enjoy arts and the culture of them. I see the arts as an important part to many peoples' lifestyles and the interactions people create among each other with them are what makes the world go round. Being a Mexican American, I am exposed to a unique culture and a lot of it has to do with music and paintings, those kind of arts. I've learned to appreciate them because they are a part of my life and I enjoy them. I am not too big on "Dia De Los Muertos" or anything, but the art and celebration of it makes me proud to be living with the culture I live in. I do not draw, however I am fascinated by artists and the detail they incorporate in their work. The eloquent drawings give me a new perception on certain situations and it helps to know those things. The music part is my favorite though. My family incorporating music and dancing into many situations makes me feel s sense of joy. I appreciate the art and I think it really makes the world go round. I think music and art are a huge part of history, granted those aren't the only arts, but they are the ones most significant to me and my life.” – Alex Gutierrez
- 319) “The arts, specifically performing arts, is important to me because I get to express myself in a way that I don't have to use words. The significance of arts to me is that artists can manipulate sounds and colors to make their thoughts come alive, and the variety in different forms of arts makes it appeal to people with a different aesthetic than other people.” – Yda Coline Dugan
- 320) “The arts are important to me because they allow me to open up my creative side and get a chance to have to think about something other than the main core subjects (math, English, history, or science). As kids we have a wide imagination, but as we grow up we tend to let go of that imagination and we have to make room for reality. The arts allow me to let my imagination run loose and let my creativity expand like when i was little. when i let my imagination run loose and my creativity it exercises my mind in different ways and it allows me to take a break from thinking about other subjects. In the arts, there is no right or wrong answer when you're trying to be creative. That is why the arts are so important to me because in regular subjects there is always an exact answer. in an art class of some sort, when you're being creative there is no exact answer.” - Kaileah Soriano
- 321) “I can honestly say that I couldn't imagine my life without the arts specifically dance. Dance is my happy place and there has never been a day that I have not wanted to go to class. Through dance you can learn so many things about yourself and many life lessons that are used outside the classroom. Lastly I think the arts are so important because it brings all sorts of different people together over a common passion. This is why the arts are so important to me.” – Kristin Greenway-August
- 322) “The arts are important me because it truly inspires not only the person behind the art but also the person who sees it. The arts have impacted me in a positive way because they allow me to express myself without any

judgment. I read in an article that any art "are languages that all people speak that cut across racial, cultural, social, educational, and economic barriers and enhance cultural appreciation and awareness." I couldn't agree more. I'm a photographer and recently began to show off my work through an app called "VSCO". In addition, I have learned many things through my photography class taught by Ms. Oskay. I really enjoy the arts because it's not only a hobby but something I'm truly inspired to do the rest of my life. The arts provide self-expression and an opportunity to create memories along the way." - Alexis Ochoa, Otay Ranch High School

- 323) "The arts have a profound effect on me. The aspects of art, such as photography, design in mix media, and other such subjects express my creativity and my emotions to produce a number of products (photos, 3D paintings) to conform based upon my personality. The arts are a method to getting a job, yet despite not getting the highest of wages, it would be something that I'm committing to out of my own interest and the good of my heart, which makes such a task feel less grueling, less like a job. The arts would be a job that I would appreciate to do, mainly for my love for the fields that it contains, but also for the impact it can have on the community, to which I could inspire others to have the same mindset and innovation to express their sentiments, their desires and goals, and their appreciation to others in the form of art that one will not utilize and throw away but rather for one to love and cherish for an eternity. Ultimately, the arts inspire me to inspire others, to get others out of trouble, to cause someone to fall in love with a field that they wouldn't believe would be their career, and place a positive impact on my community." – Krishna Nirmal
- 324) "I believe the Arts is an open door for people to interpret their inner thoughts and emotions in a more creative way. As an introvert art has definitely helped me express my thoughts, which I'm too shy to say, more thoroughly. The Arts also helped me learn different perspectives of viewing a picture as well as interpreting what the photographer of the photo was trying to put forth. Art greatly impacts the general population and human culture. It brings diversity and understanding throughout people. Therefore I hold much value for the Arts and their importance." - Isabella Calhoun (ORH)
- 325) "The arts are important to because I think they help kids with patience and focus. As a result of the arts kids can express their creativity." – Analyssa Alvarez
- 326) "I think its important to have arts in school because it lets me be creative and express myself the way that I want." – Karly Villegas
- 327) "The arts are important to me because it makes us more creative, focused and it also teaches us patience because we need to do our projects precisely. It also helps us relax and see what we are capable of. It might help us in our future careers and our future." – Oscar Pena-Castillejas
- 328) "I believe the arts is important because it shows us creativity and expresses our self of who we are. Arts can help students that experiment methods and techniques of art. Not only visual art, but performing arts, both can help explore things let our self be free. Some people have no creativity in their head, and that's why arts can help them get creativity. Both visual and performing arts can analyze how kids express themselves. Once again I believe that arts are important because it can help us express ourselves and shows creativity in kids." – Nicole Wong
- 329) "I think it is important to have the arts in school because it helps students become more self expressive. The arts have personally helped me think and be more creative when I'm doing art or some other activity." Jaime Greeno
- 330) "I know for sure that arts are very important. I think that arts are important because it helps people find their passion for art, music, computer. I found my passion doing art and music and so did a lot of my friends. It helps people express who they are." – Kiana Graham
- 331) "The arts are important to me because they allow me and the people around me to connect. I've made a lot of friends through visual and performing arts. I think it's important to have the arts in school because it allows kids to express themselves. When I'm stressed, happy, going through a hard time, or sad, I like to draw or sing or make up my own little dance to express my feelings. My personality can also be seen through my art, allowing people to know a little more about me on the inside. As a result of the arts kids can become patient, focused, creative, and resourceful." Andrea Petka
- 332) "The arts are important to me because things like art and music allow me to express myself. Also, during art I get to show my inner creativity which makes me feel happy and accomplished when I complete an art piece." – Kaleb Jones

- 333) “Our schools need the arts in order to motivate the students to come to school. Without the arts students wouldn't be able to master some techniques that can be useful in the future. The arts also allow the students left side brain to be used, while math only activates the right side of the brain. The arts also allow the student to be more creative which is required by many teachers for projects. This is why the arts are necessary in our school.” – Eduardo Baeza
- 334) “The arts are important to me because I know that everyone needs something to keep them busy if it is either dancing or drawing or playing a musical instrument or whatever. Not only does it help self-express people but it gives them inspiration that hey I can do this no matter what everyone has to say. It's important that teenagers have some of the arts in their life in case they can make a living out of it or a career. It also helps them be more relaxed and can even be used as a therapy and keep them focused.” – Carmen Toth
- 335) “The arts are important to me because I am allowed to express my creativity during class time. Our school needs the arts because we analyze historical events that created methods we use in art today.” – Xavier Lagmay
- 336) “I think it's important to have the arts in school because there might be some kids in this school who are still trying to find out what they want to be in the future, what they want to major in and arts can help them find that thing. They might be outstanding with music or maybe they are thinking about art but they aren't sure so they could choose art as an elective and who knows maybe they will grow up and become the greatest artist of all time. So my point is the arts are very important to have in school.” – Dayanara Paiz Ferreyra
- 337) “I think it is important to have arts in school because it can give us knowledge on how to express our creativity. As the results of the arts we have more creative people in the world.” – Treveon Becker
- 338) “I think it's important to have the arts in school because it's interesting and exciting for inspirational work that they teach us and how we explore the famous Arts and their creativity.” – Jasmin Rico
- 339) “I need the arts in my life so that I am not shy to express my creativity. I am really shy but because of the arts I'm not afraid to express what my creativity is, like drawing, drama, music, and so much more. Without the arts I wouldn't be here right now drawing characters from an Anime, acting in a play, or playing the violin. Arts are very important to me, it's very interesting to me, also very inspirational. As a result, it changed my life, and I love it.” – Madison Hale
- 340) “I think it's important to have the arts in school because you never know when the next Michelangelo or Leonardo da Vinci might walk in to this school without the arts. Without the arts you can't explore how resourceful someone can be. The arts have been alive longer than anyone can remember and to take that away now is just crazy talking. The arts teach people how to focus, explore, analyze, and other things. I have many more things but the bottom line is the arts are important.” – Jacob Charboneau
- 341) “I believe the arts are important because it really brings out people's creative side. People, especially younger people like those in their teen years, get to express themselves more without having to use words. For example, if there are personal issues going on that one may not want to speak about, that person can express their issues through drawing or writing a poem. Art has really helped me grow as a person because not only do I discover my creativity more and more on the daily, but I also discover my capability.” – Genova Lucatero
- 342) “Art is important because it helps us think creatively.” – Gian Balista
- 343) “My name is Joshua Jugar from Bonita Vista High School. I am currently in a photography class here at school and it has taught me a lot on why art is important. Art allows you to express yourself in numerous ways, it shows who you really are. Art such as photography are really important to me because it is an opportunity to show other people my talent or work. Creating art in photography for example, allows me to conduct and produce photos that people don't normally see or is very uncommon. Photoshop that we use in photography allows us to take art to a whole new level, by making it more attractive to others. Once your hard work pays off, your work is appreciated. Art is not only about capturing people's attention, but it could also entertain them. For example, dancing is an art that was meant for entertainment. The last reason why art is important to me is because it makes a huge impact on the viewers. It can inspire them. Knowing that one day, the viewer will hope to achieve a piece of art just like you, and you will get credited someday for it.”

- 344) “The arts are important to me because being in orchestra has made me many friends. I've become more social because of orchestra, no being from California having a music class made me fill at home. This program has helped me in math, which is pretty awesome. Music is a big part of my household so coming to school and learning an instrument is an amazing privilege for me to have.” – Zarah Ganem
- 345) “The arts are important for me because it's my own special talent. Anyone can be smart and get good grades -and there are plenty of people that do- but being artistic is the only thing I can do without feeling pressured or judged. It's the only thing that I can do on my own time that actually makes me happy and feel good about myself. I am happy to say that ever since i discovered the arts, I have discovered myself.” – Gwendolyn Gregory
- 346) “I believe that the arts are important because music has a feeling to it and you can dance to it and it also express your feeling. Art is fun because you can draw what you feel and it helps. Dancing is a type of art we get to feel and express our talents we get to in joy what has been going on for years. Art is important to me because it expresses my feelings, it's fun, and it's something I in joy not only that but I can show people what I can do. That's why the arts are important.” – Paulina Mariscal
- 347) “The arts are important to me because they are ways of expressing yourself. I played instruments before I came to band, now I can say that I play three: guitar, piano and alto sax. Music class can also help when you're stressed from other classes or upcoming tests. Music can help you have a wider understanding of many things. But not only music, drama, art, and other performing and visual arts also help students in many ways.” – Cielo Quintero
- 348) “The arts are important to me because it shows the beauty of playing music and the ability to perform instruments. It is also important to me because it brings joy to students playing and learning new things of their instruments. Finally it is important to me because not many students are able to afford music classes and having an arts class in school it gives the opportunity students to take the class.” – Shan Puno
- 349) “The arts are important to me because it is a way for students to express themselves. I enjoy art because there are many types of forms and styles of it. Arts can tell a lot about a person. I think it's cool that there are so many unique artworks out there. Arts are important to me because even though I can't draw very well, I can learn to type nice photos and be considered an artist. Arts are also important because you can make many different types of careers with it. Your career will be very enjoyable it won't even feel like a job!” – Bianca Munoz
- 350) “The arts are very important to me and I'm glad that they are available to me today. I love being in band so much it is one of the best parts of the day just being able to play music and enjoy it. The arts as well as being fun are an easy way to relax and get away from stressful things. That is why the arts are important to me.” – Adrian Reyes
- 351) “The arts are important to me because they make me happy and music is an important part of my life. Ever since I was little I enjoyed listening to music and as I got older I started to play music. Now I play three musical instruments that I enjoy to play and I plan on playing them for a really long time.” – Keito Shepard
- 352) “Music is important to me because it helps me express who I am. Music is a big part of my life and it helps me get out what I can't say by myself. Photography also is important, it lets me be creative and shows people that there is more to me than just what they see. Music expresses my emotions and photography is my way of being free.” – Danae, Hilltop high
- 353) “Well, the arts are very important to me because it keeps me challenged and it also helps me in stuff for school. As a dancer and a 4.0 student, the teachers who teach the arts are also very awesome and chill. It also helps me relax and its super duper fun.” – Nikko De Castro
- 354) “The arts are important to me for many reasons. One reason why I care about arts is because I was influenced by my brothers when they started band. Another reason why I love arts is because when I get to band class, I feel like I'm not in school anymore. It's almost like taking a break from overthinking from school.” – Jair Contreras
- 355) “The arts are important to me, you, and everyone. My favorite form of art, music, is one of the things I look forward towards in school. It allows me to have fun while playing music. Drawings and paintings are also important to me. Drawings, paintings, murals, etc. are ways people can express themselves while doing something they love. So, if that answers your question. Yes, the arts are important to all.” – Geoshua Topacio

- 356) “There are many reasons on why the arts are important to me. They provide a hobby or they make you feel proud about yourself. Not many students believe they are special, some believe they have no talent. Arts change that feeling. I know this because it changed me. I never really thought much of myself until now. I am in band and I play tenor saxophone. I don't like to brag but I'm pretty good. It makes me feel good about myself as I'm sure it does to my fellow classmates. That's why the arts are important to me.” – Cristian Perez
- 357) “Today I was asked what the arts meant to me and my answer is everything. The arts are a way for people to express who they are. For instance I am a singer and dancer. When life gets to hard and I need a way out I turn to dance, and when I need to speak my mind I sing. But this letter isn't just about me. This letter is for everyone who depends on any of the performing arts to cope with whatever problem they may be having. These kids in the arts are very passionate about what they do and they should be given credit for their hard work. Students in these programs don't get enough attention even from their own school. For the most part students don't even know their school has all of these amazing programs. All we ask is that we are noticed and given more opportunities to do what we love just like if it were any other program.” – Julissa Rodriguez
- 358) “To whom it may concern well more of like everyone bc some may not care but it's still important. Okay so I'm just gonna start out by saying it ART IS IMPORTANT there's no need to cut it half well, most the things we have today wouldn't exist without having art. Dancing is an art, singing, well writing is an art yea writing. We can also understand that if the school district doesn't have money to fund it it's completely fine. But art is important to me because it lets me have a way of self-expression even at my lowest of lows I always have art to revert back to and express what I'm feeling.” – Roxana
- 359) “The vapa classes at our school are important to me because the arts have been a part culture for the longest time. It's also been known that music has helped many students improve on their learning abilities by further developing their minds on information beyond. For me personally, I absolutely enjoy taking these classes because they don't just broaden my knowledge but they also allow me to gain experience on new and interesting things.” – Anonymous
- 360) “The arts are important to me because I can relax with the music I play. The first time I actually played a piece on Piano it was because of my parents who argued, and it relaxed me while they went on. Now that I'm learning flute, I can play different songs now, and it is fun to play the songs.” - Jason Munoz, Sophomore at Hilltop High
- 361) “Hello, my name is Laura Estrada I'm a sophomore from Hilltop High School and I joined band class this year because I love music and my goal for this year is to learn the instrument I'm playing which is the clarinet. The reason I pick this instrument was because for me being a beginner and my first year in band class I thought it would be easy to start with this instrument. Although its not easy to get sound at the first time, I couldn't make any sound out of it, after a few days, weeks of practicing it started to make a sound but not a normal clarinet sound it started squeaking and I knew that was not normal, but I never gave up I practice and practice until the day come and I made the clarinet sound like a clarinet should sound. My dream is to be a musician and know how to play different instruments, make music and wishing one day the music I make people would be listening. My love for music is unexplainable I just can't describe how much I love music, music is like my whole life and I'm never going to give up on my dream ill make my dream come true even though it would be hard to accomplish my goal but I like challenges in life and I know this would be a big and fun challenge in my life.”
- 362) “The arts are a very vital part in my life because it helps show who I am and what I have to say about the world. The arts are also very important because it helps bring people together because art has no language everyone can understand it or try to at least. The arts, whether it be art, music, drama, or dance, help share ideas and can have an impact on peoples beliefs it also helps us learn about ancient generations and how they lived. In conclusion the arts are important because they are everywhere we look, if we didn't have art there be no buildings and no award shows.” - Melanie Conriquez 😊
- 363) “My name is Miggell from Bonita Vista High School. I'm a student of photography, athlete, as well as a dancer here. The arts are very important to me. Being in photography class as well as for other students are their art classes, opens me up to a variety of creative opportunities. Yes, I am an athlete at the school and cherish sports a lot, but I am also a dance captain for Bonita Vista Co-Ed, our school hip-hop dance team. Arts here at Bonita have opened me up to new places and doors not just here, but outside the school as well. Yes it gives me a place to practice and do the things I love with the people I love. From dancing here, I am now on a competition based dance team competing in the nation known as iLL Habits, which I might say, is a really great junior hip hop team

in which I'm blessed to be apart of. Arts at school are very important not only to me but many other students as well. Thank you for your time and consideration." Miggell Yacub

- 364) "The arts are important to me because you can do anything with it. You can express yourself with art. You can get a career with art. Art is important because its always different, every ones amount of creativity is different and exciting because you can include it in anything. -Brissa Rivera
- 365) "The arts are important to me because it helps me cope with my anxiety. I am constantly anxious and the arts help me cope and relax. The arts give another form of self expression so you don't have to always just say what's on your mind. Art helps me say what I'm thinking to my mom because I sometimes get scared whenever I am talking so its easier to just show what's happening with art. Art is an outlet for me and I think it is to others as well so it should not be taken away. Also in college there are many majors and some are related to art so it can help you do what you want to." – Julia Fischer
- 366) "I think it's important to have the arts in school because it is exciting and interesting to learn how to make art, play instruments, singing, and drama. As a result of the arts, I myself have learned creativity, techniques for making art, about interesting and inspiration historical art, patience, and I have learned to have more appreciation for the arts." – Kesler Anderson
- 367) "The arts are important to me because they allow me to express my thoughts and feelings. Whether it's creative writing, drawing, or dancing the arts help me define myself and express who I truly am. Through drawing I am allowed to show something that is important to me and how I feel about it through the use of color. Different colors help me express different emotions, for example, blue and black can mean that I'm upset or disappointed, while pink and other bright colors can help show that I am happy. Dancing is an art that helps me express how I feel through movement and for that moment in time I forget about any of my problems and just let it all out on the dance floor. For many different reasons the arts are important because they're a form of therapy for many, especially me." – Martha Diaz
- 368) "The arts are important to me because the visual arts open up a lot of careers. For example, just a couple careers involving the arts are singers and artists, and there are many people pursuing these careers right now." – Lance Victor Aguila
- 369) "The arts are important not only to me but to other people because it lets us bring out our emotions and feelings that we cant say in person. Without the arts in our lives, our world would just be a dull place to live in. Music makes us want to dance and sing, art makes us feel like we can do anything by stroking the paintbrush on the canvas. The arts are a huge impact to our lives and we wouldn't be a exciting or even fun place to live in." – Owen Nagata
- 370) "The arts are important to me because to me they are interesting and fun to do. The arts help me express my creativity through drawing. As a result of the arts, I think that school is more exciting." – Anthony Zenteno
- 371) "Areas are very important is very important to me because I don't just like to play my flute but I really enjoy photograph. As we all now photography is also considered art for me photography is very important I really like it and it's part of my personality and my life because as a "hipster" we all love paintings, photography, cinema, MUSIC, and lots of other things that our society considers art. So if you guys think that taking band, art, acting, or any other thing away from us you're wrong really wrong because after you take it away you're going to regret it your whole life. You should instead add cinema or photography to the high schools cool I would like to join." – Valeria Torres ☺
- 372) "Why are the performing arts important to me? Well the arts are important because you get to share with other people what your about. People think the arts is just singing and dancing but it's really showing who you are through music. Lastly the arts can help you get through the tough times like when you are sad you can sing to make you happier. And that's why the arts are important to me." – Julian Serrano
- 373) "Arts are important to me because they make school fun, they help relieve stress and it keeps me busy in the day." – Asael Fernandez

- 374) “Art is important to me because if I have a test or something stressful next period or that day it helps me calm down. Art is something that is very important to many people and sometimes your not allowed to do that in school except with this class.” – Qasim Naqvi
- 375) “The arts are important to me because it gives me Inspiration sometimes.” – Diego Villar-Beach
- 376) “Hi I'm Diva Zeckua, a current member of The Music Machine over at Bonita Vista High. My passion for the arts has been no secret since I was a small girl. Singing, acting, and dancing for me are beautiful ways in which our feelings can be expressed. Through them we are able to develop our talents in a proper way that brings joy and pleasure to us and to those who watch us perform. Hard work, dedication, determination, and love are some of the qualities that are gathered throughout the path that the arts lead you in. It is us performers who have the task to transmit such positivity on and off the stage, something that's easy when it comes to loving what you do and having that mindset that allows you to be confident and happy on your performance. Other than technically speaking, I believe that the arts offer an extensive amount of benefits that can guide you into a lifetime.”
- 377) “The arts are important to me because it allows me to express myself. It allows me to take a break out of a stressful environment, that is school. My only time to relax is in my photography class. It allows me to think about art and photography and the world around me. It is like a philosophy class, which allows one to express ourselves. I have been able to express myself through music on the piano and my photography class. I need the arts to calm myself down and prevent myself from quitting school. That is why the arts are important to me.” – Christian F.
- 378) “Before I enrolled in band class, I absolutely hated coming to school. Everyday, I would wake up and wish the day was over before I even arrived at school. Once I enrolled in band class in 6th grade, I had a more positive outlook on school.
- 379) After only a few days of band, I couldn't wait to go to school and start playing and hopefully get better with each day. My grades, attitude, and music skill all improved just by experiencing the joy of music. In addition to the fun of music, I had the honor of having an amazing and supportive teacher who loved her job and the students she taught. She has a special place in my heart for exposing me this incredible art form that has become a major part of my life.
- 380) Today, I am in 11th grade and still loving the class that has given me so much joy over these past 5 years. Without music and my wonderful teacher, I would probably still have a bad attitude on school and life in general. I thank her for helping me see the beauty of life surrounded by music. This is why music is important to me.” – Courtney Michelle
- 381) “The art program is a very important program that benefits student lives every day. One student may luckily be in a program and decide that this will be there life long decision to invest there time in becoming a successful artist. Restricting this program would strip the rights of students in becoming artists that may one day change the world. The decision to take away art programs is a big mistake as this program makes students realize the benefits of having art in there lives and maybe one day creating a career out of it. The program itself is successful in creating a lending hand to those who want to pursuit a dream in any one of the art programs.” – Chelsea Gonzalez
- 382) “I think that the visual arts and design are a very crucial part of our high school education. The arts allow students to express their mindset and paint a picture from their imagination. To me the arts allow me to create something from nothing, this being a valuable experience that can be done throughout ones life. They also have the power to help give feedback and reflect of our mistakes. Art courses should be continued to be kept in BVHS.” – Manuel Juarez
- 383) “Three reasons why I think an Art class is important is because 1. ART is a skill that most people should develop because it uses a part of your brain you don't use on an everyday basis. 2. ART is important because it shows how far the years have changed from them and now. 3. Last but not least ART is important because it shows you the different strategies and skills to becoming a unique person.” – Tierra Steele
- 384) “I think it's important to have the arts in school because we need to be able to express our individuality and show our talent and maybe one day one of us might become a famous artist.” – Kaneque B.

- 385) “The arts are important to me because they allow me to express myself in something other than voice. Pictures also allow me to be artistic and creative when it comes to photography. I really appreciate this class because it gives an opportunity try out photography which I otherwise would not do. The arts are especially important to me because they give me a way to deal with stress and relax.”- Romario Carranza, ORH
- 386) “The arts are important to me because every time I come to art class I am excited on what we are going to do. Another reason why the arts are important to me is because I get to be creative on what I draw. And the last reason why the arts is important to me is because it lets me show my self-expression on my drawings.” – Izaac Medina
- 387) “The Arts are important to me because it allows me to use self express my self and use creativity as well. It is also very insoirational because I can look up to famous artists and try to match up with them as well. I appreciate art and what it brings to me.” – Louis Karmes
- 388) “The arts are valuable to me because, I have ADHD, and it helps me focus, because The arts are exciting, interesting. Having art makes me learn patience.” – Michael Pacana
- 389) “Arts are important to me because it lets me express my feelings and it helps me with my other school work because we have no homework in the arts and we have more time for other classes.” – Elyssa Molinari
- 390) “Well first of all its a way of relaxation if photography is an art i really like it because you can go to nature and just relax with nature and take amazing pictures of animals and how relaxing you enjoy yourself without technology and all you do is take a camping tent and a camara and just enjoy nature without having to worry because you have time to yourself and think about what you have to do.” - Fidel Trujillo
- 391) “I think arts important to me because art is really cool. It lets you show other people how cool the art is. To me art is cool I sometimes feel sad at home and when i play my instrument it makes me feel so much better.” – Sebastian Solis
- 392) “In my opinion I believe that art is a very important subject here at schools. Why I believe art is important is because its a different subject from your typical A-G requirement classes, we learn lots from photography to art all the way to digital media. I didn't know how to use a camera and take great photos until I signed up for this class. Art is a subject that I really suggest on taking, it's a very fun class on taking. Another class that I'm o taking is drama, it's very fun meeting new people and also surrounding yourself with a new thing to try. I can't imagine if art was to be taken away from us students, I'm not going to lie school is boring as it already is and I can't imagine for a class to be dropped, then school would be hell, but I mean school shouldn't be fun I guess right? Any ways art is a very important subject that shouldn't leave us.” – Alexia Guerrero
- 393) “Well art is important to me because I like playing my clarinet and when I play it gives me joy and I am just really important to me cuz I really enjoy playing my clarinet” – Octavio Tovar
- 394) “I dont think art is important to me cause it really dosent help me at all in everday and its not that important.” – Ernest Dukes, ELM
- 395) “Art is very important in today's society because it's a source of expression, that's what it means to me. Art as many shapes of forms from paintings all the way to folk dancing, art goes back all the way to the stone age, it has progressed from wall paintings telling a story and now its gone to computers with digital art. I'm a graphic designer for my job and because its what I plan to do for the rest of my life. If you think about the concept of art its an expression of ones feelings, you can make anything and you can call it art, the only limit you have to art is your own imagination.” – Jacob Cantollas
- 396) “The arts are very important to both me and my family. Both of my parents were in choir and my aunts majored in band and orchestra. I'be dedicated my Middle school and High school career to majoring or becoming an expert in the arts. I want my parents to see that I have followed in their footsteps and that I went the extra mile to dabble in every form of arts there is available at my school. This school's art program Isn't the best that it could be, but I'm making the most of it. This school hasn't dedicated as much to the arts program as they have to the sports, but that doesn't keep me from playing the music i love and drawing my hearts desires.” – Jacob Walsh

- 397) “Visual And Performing Arts has always been apart of my life. Outside of school I am active in my church I am in the choir, dance team, and multi media ministry at my church. Visual And Performing Arts is something that drives me to express my feelings weather it is dancing or singing. In 8th grade I was apart of the singing group at Rancho Del Rey Middle School called Harmonia. Recently in the last couple of years my church has created a dance team which I am apart of. Our dance team preforms at our church and churches around the San Diego County. We go to dance workshops to bring our dance team together and we can become an even stronger team than we are now. When I am singing most of the time I just sing around my home. Many of my friends don't know that I can really sing and dance, most of the time I play around with my friends. Reasons I don't really let people hear me sing or see me dance is because I am a very shy person and I am afraid of what they would think of my voice or not approve of how I dance. I am adding to my new hobby, photography. I started photography because I always thought that photography would be fun to try out and I was correct. My photography teacher is Ms. Oskay, she is teaching me about cameras and how to use them. She is very helpful when I need to understand something about a camera. Photography is becoming something I am loving like singing and dancing. Visual And Performing Arts is my life and I love it.” Ayana Woods, Otay Ranch High School
- 398) “Art. It can be anything. Arts and crafts, pastel, watercolor, almost limitless options really. But art is more. It could change a person’s life for better or for worse. But what I really like about art, is how free it can be. How a style of Art can fit any kind of person. How, you can let your emotions out with a scribble, a color, and it's something to look at. It could be messy, neat, colorful, bland, but no matter how different or disoriented it may look, it's a form of art. It may not be as popular, but it's something you can look at, something that in some way is human or life like. For, many artworks have been made by human beings, those artworks make me feel as if looking at a flicker of a person’s life. For, they took time making the Art, as if that time is in sewn into the curves, colors, or/and lines of that piece. It shows how you don't need to be in a certain situation to see Art or to feel it, Art is free from those shackles. Art is free.” – Mikala Quiambao Villanueva
- 399) “I think its important to have the arts in school because it gives kids a chance to explore and experiment different electives to know what they would like to do the next year in school. I also think the arts are important because without it some kids might have a hard time trying to pick what they want to do for their next years elective. This is why i think exploring arts is important.” – Jake English
- 400) “The arts are important to me because it's a way to express myself. I love dancing and singing and that is why I take choir and folklorico. It's not only just a class, but it is an environment that allows you to be yourself and open your mind to a whole world of creativity.” – Dalia Alvarez
- 401) “The arts are important because it's an easy way to relieve stress and connect ourselves with the rest of society. It help us make sense of our world, and they broaden our experience and understanding. The arts enable us to imagine the unimaginable, and to connect us to the past, the present, and the future, sometimes simultaneously. The arts can be anything you love to do that helps express yourself. From painting to photography everyone has there own way of expressing themselves . Personally I love photography being able to capture a photo that can tell a whole story is amazing. I hope to continue doing photography in the future and become a better one with time. This is why the arts are important, because without them people wouldn't be able to express them selves.” - Elina Gonzalez, ORHS
- 402) “The arts are valuable to me because they provide a time for students to explore and improve different learning skills that they may or may not have encountered before, besides just math, English, science, or history. Learning these arts is not only exciting, but also it opens up different career choices that they may not have took interest to. This is why the arts are important to me.” – Faamanuia A.
- 403) “The arts are important to me because art helps me express my emotions and art makes me feel like I'm part of something important or special. I love doing art since it shows my passion and creativity in my everyday life, art helps me through rough times and helps cheer me up. Art makes me happy, it's just something that I personally enjoy doing.” - Sincerely yours, Marlene Baldonado
- 404) “Art is important to me because people use a lot of creative thinking and also brings you back to historical. Art is also inspirational for some kids and also exciting.” – Henry Vazquez
- 405) “I think visual and performing arts is important because music is another language and music has changed the world for hundreds of years that’s why I think music is important” – Adam Izaguirre

- 406) "Its important because it encourages kids to create and also increases their level of skill." – Tyson Lennard
- 407) "We should keep art because it is fun. Also it is also I stress relaxer." Nathaniel Bjornstad
- 408) "Art class are important because it makes us people to be creative. It can make a better person. Art is an important aspect of our life that let us capture those important moments." – Alondra Gomez
- 409) "I think it's important to have arts in school because it brings out students creativity. Lots of students can explore there creativity on the computer, in art, and in music." – Trent McFall
- 410) "Art matters to me because we implement an immense amount of writing and is a gateway for aspiring journalists. Also, allows for students to correct their grammar and find their own style of writing. I would really appreciate for Yearbook to be considered an A-G requirement because it does just as much as any other art class." – Alysa Ojeda
- 411) "Art matters to me bc it's a form of self expression. Art is important to me because it helps me express myself through my painting, photos, and music." – Toree Pollington
- 412) "The arts are important to me (specifically band) because it I love to play and make music. I can express myself in a way words cant. Five years ago I didn't think music would have such a big impact on my life because it's shaped me into the person I am today. I love performing because once I'm on that stage whether its Acting, Dancing, or playing an instrument for someone's amusement or a competition it makes me happy to see throughout all this time I've managed to make my audience happy of what they visualized, not just a performance but all the hard work I've put/our group has put into to make any of this happen. Spending countless hours practicing my lines, practicing my steps, and playing my instrument makes me proud of how far I've gone with my musicianship, and as a performer. Music is what I want to pursue in my future and to be a music educator, to be able to teach music to those as dedicated to music as much as I am would be an honor. It's my dream to become the best at what I do. So far I'm proud of the progress I've attained in these past years my love and dedication for music is just amazing and I know a lot of my directors could say the same after all I should thank them all for helping me to continue my dream." – Luis Matos
- 413) "I believe that the arts are an important part of everyone's life, especially mine. Photography is something amazing that can help me express emotion. When you are taking an arts class its as though you are freed from all the hard work you are surrounded by everyday. As an eleventh grader classes are getting tougher and photography helps me escape and be free from all the troubles of English and math and so many other subjects. Although I am still learning about different types of ways to improve my photography skills I believe its fun and relaxing. You get to have a class period where you can express yourself and do as you please with the pictures you take, you get to put your own style into it, and that goes for any type of art class some one is taking. The arts are important to me because they help me be who I am and allow me to show others what I can do and maybe inspire others to join an arts class in order for them to free themselves too." – Donaji Harris
- 414) "I think it's important to have art class because its a subject that makes your brain to be more creative and also its fun. Art class is a class that lets your brain be calm and relax. Art class is fun and good experience to have because it can be useful for the future and your able to draw whatever you want. Its a class that lets you relax your brain from all the thinking in other classes." –Isiah McClinton
- 415) "Arts are important to me because I feel like they give you something to express yourself with. Also I feel that they allow you to choose something that you enjoy and pursue it and make you who you are." – Gazelle Chavez
- 416) "The arts are important to the school because kids would get bored of just doing math and science. Kids would need a break from all that work and art is the perfect way to relax the brain after doing math and other courses. Art can also let out a students' creativity." – Ezekiel Allen Martin
- 417) "I think the arts are very important to me because I'm a drama SCPA major and I need drama. It helps create a whole different characters then me. I think I'm not the only one I need this and so do others thank you." - Isaac Gardner from Chula Vista High School.
- 418) "The arts have played a huge role in the role of self discovery for me. After joining Drama it became a whole new and different path towards another different goal. The arts have shaped me into a better person both socially and

academically. The arts have given me the confidence to stand up and do that presentation in class, or be able to speak up in a class debate. The arts are a one of a kind experience that can change a persons life only for the better.” – Celine B.

- 419) “The arts aren't just important to me, they are THE most important to me.” – Ruby Montoya
- 420) “The performing arts are important to me because it forever changed my life. Theatre opened my life to a whole new judge free community where we all had the same interest and goals. It also helped me work on my social skills and team work skills which will forever stay with me and help me outside of the performing arts.” - Lynet
- 421) “Band is so important to me and my life because it shows me how to be a leader, and how to work with those around me. Band has also taught me to be responsible for myself and it helps me stay humble during performances!” – Gabriel Kalaluhi
- 422) “The arts are important to me because they give me a way to release my energy and fuel my creativity. Stressed from school? I just pick my flute or a pair of drumsticks and channel my energy into the music. Bored? I simply pick up a pencil and draw, my imagination being my only limitation.” – Dilan Johnson
- 423) “Hello my name is Kellie Hatch and I am a Drama Major. The arts are important to me because the arts allow me to express myself through creativity and teamwork since I don't participate in sports. Also the arts are a huge part of my life since my whole family has at some point been involved in the arts. Currently both my parents are involved in volunteering with the arts at my school and I am in Drama and Stagetech. I love being a part of the arts program because it is fun to meet new people and learn new skills that directly apply to the professional world.”
- 424) “Art exercises and develops higher order thinking skills including analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and "problem-finding." Art gives the ability to make humans think more about the art they look at and give them time to reflect on it in deeper means. You can find symbolism in art that reflects to every-day things.” – Matthew Sadik, Ms. Serafin, Olympian High
- 425) “The arts have been with me since I was in elementary school and it has become a major part of me. This isn't just limited to my music classes but I also partook in singing as a child and I got heavily involved with the drama department along with their plays. To go a year without being in some form of the arts would feel like I'm taking chunks of who I am away; I would feel incomplete without them.” – Vivian Bonafilia
- 426) “The arts are important to me because it is a way to express myself. Some people do it through sports, I do it through music. It is a way to get away from everyday things and relax. It is probably one of the only things that help me cope and express emotions as well helping me academically in school. I didn't play music for a year and my grades drastically dropped. It is what keeps me balanced and one of the only things that I can count on to make me happy instantly.” – Connie Caballero
- 427) “The arts are important to express the human complexity of the brain and feelings. Personally, it alleviates my routinely stress from work or any situation out of my comprehension.” – Giselle Correa
- 428) “Should we fund the arts? It's always been a topic of debate, over many years and countless studies we have found that the arts are in fact vital to an adolescent's life. We as teenagers have a lot of emotions that tend to blow up in our face, the arts have always been a way to be productive and find a new life long passion. Arts are just as important as any other class and even more important than any sport.” – Gaby Ibarra
- 429) “I think the arts are important to me because I love the connection you make with people in the department. When your in a type of art that involves group interaction I love it very much because your going to be with your peers for the whole school year so getting to connect with them is amazing. Plus, you learn something new, for example if your in an art class you learn these different techniques to help you with your artwork. For me personally, I'm part of the Drama department so my art is shown by the movement I do on stage, as I continue my education in Drama I will learn new techniques and new emotions that I never felt before. Thank you for asking this question to my Drama class.” - Valerie Johnson (10th grader)
- 430) “Mr. Kover, the reason why vava is important to me is because it provides a safe and comfortable environment for people to learn and practice music. I have fibromyalgia and depression and the music class has helped me

escape from life and really learn. It is an amazing class and they cannot take it away, people in this class love each other and the music that they play. No one is in that class just for the hell of it, we would all be lost without music and Mabrey.” - Katia LaFrancis

- 431) “Why are the arts important to me? I think the arts are important to me because It helps me and the whole whole band succeed together and learn together as whole band. When I joined band I felt like I wasn't going to like it but until I tried it for a while , I liked it and slowly start to love band, meet new friends , and also playing my first instrument which was very fun. I feel more attached to the whole band and learning new things. Some day it can lead everyone to a much bigger band in colleges and this is probably why try arts are important to me.” – Maria Zamora
- 432) “The arts are like water and air to me, they're everywhere and I can't live without them.” – Claire Bautista
- 433) “The arts are important to me because it gives me and my peers a common goal to create something beautiful. This beautiful thing called music sends me to a place where I can escape from all the flaws created in this world.” – Alex Efirid
- 434) “They're important to me because people should be able to express themselves. People should be able to share and entertain others with their talents. People love a soothing musical voice , a colorful emotional painting, a lovely tune from a guitar. Never try to take this away, let people enjoy what they are good at.” – Aiden McClellan
- 435) “The arts are important because it lets student express their creativity and talents. For me personally the arts are important because they allow me to be myself and give me an outlet to express my talent. Also it gives me an opportunity to learn more about the art and it's cool to look forward to a class other than Math and Chemistry.” – Paula Morgan
- 436) “Hi, I am Dianna Garcia and I attend Ms. Serafin's photography class at Olympian High School. I wanted to explicate why the arts are not only important to me but to all my peers in high school. Arts not only help students express their inner emotions into canvas, photographs, or through the movement of the human body but it also helps captivate the mindset of these students. For me, photography has helped me express my own point of view in objects. I revel in taking photographs of simplistic yet valuable objects and capture its aesthetic. I fancy seeing how a picture can not only speak a thousand words, as cliché as it seems, but it can also help convey many feelings and reactions.” – Dianna Garcia
- 437) “I think the arts are important to me because It helps me and the whole whole band succeed together and learn together as whole band. When I joined band I felt like I wasn't going to like it but until I tried it for a while, I liked it and slowly start to love band, meet new friends , and also playing my first instrument which was very fun. I feel more attached to the whole band and learning new things. Some day it can lead everyone to a much bigger band in colleges and this is probably why try arts are important to me.” – Maria Zamora
- 438) “The arts are an extremely significant part of high school students' lives. It is what encourages a lot of students to attend school who wouldn't otherwise, it improves brain capacity and the ability and dedication to learn quickly in academic classes, and it inspires students to pursue their passion outside of school. As for me, I am in Color Guard, AP Studio Art, involved in dance outside of school, photography, and playing instruments. So, obviously, the arts are a very important part of my daily life that give me a chance to express myself in a creative way and search for alternate career paths in the arts realm.” – Jamie Nixon
- 439) “We should keep art because it expresses a students individuality and creativity. It's the one time of day to relieve stress from all the rigorous classes such as math and apush etc..” – Ryan Rivera
- 440) “The art program is great because it is one of the only classes where I don't have to worry about to much work. Art classes removes the stress of class work.” – Ramon De Dios
- 441) “We need to keep art in schools! Not only do we learn so much in these classes, but to many students, including me, it's our favorite class. In my case, photography lets me and other students express themselves in ways we never could without this class.” – Cade Daily
- 442) “Art matters because it allows students to express themselves in ways they never knew possible. It allows students to learn about the history of entertainment and beauty. If you get rid of art classes we will all hate school

and never want to come back. My photography class is the only class a actually look forward to and enjoy.” – Olivia Klugg

- 443) “The art program is an important factor as a way to learn a different skill aside from math and etc.” – Tommy Asuncion
- 444) “Art is important to have as an option for students in public schools because for some kids sports are not for them. However, art is for them and it would not be fair that they no longer have a choice to have a class that express their individuality. Art is nice subject to keep because it can help distress students.” – Alexis Inglis
- 445) “The arts are incredibly important to me, because as a musician I believe that any art is a great way to express and find yourself. The arts are also very important to me because the arts allow you to escape reality and create your own world where no can judge you or hurt you, it makes you feel humble and safe. The arts are also incredibly important to me because it is a gateway to finding peace and allows you'r imagination and creativity to run rampant. The arts also help me and many others get through difficult times because it distracts us from our dark and scary world, the arts work as a beacon of light in this dark and shadowy world.” – David Arguelles
- 446) “I think it's important to have art at our school because it help me to be self- expression and show how I feel in my art work. Also it teach me to be patience and focus. I need patience and focus in baseball and it had helped me out to be a better baseball player. Art also helped me to analyze ideas and put them in together into creativity piece of art. This is what I used in writing essays and I be writing good essay now. Art have interesting techniques like shadow patching. It is exciting to make new artwork because I learn more about art as I make more art.” – Hunter Lewis
- 447) “The arts are important to me because they are an outlet. When I play, I feel cleansed and refreshed. I work and focus on my music and when I perform I feel like nothing can hurt me. I feel strong, and love sharing something I worked so hard on. It lets me find an alternative when school work becomes too much, and something to connect me to other people. That is why the arts are important to me.” - Mackenzie Spence, Junior, Olympian High School Orchestra
- 448) “I think it’s important to have the arts in school because if you are having hard time with school or something, art can take you to another world. Also, I like to be creative when I draw. I don’t like to do simple things sometimes. The arts are also interesting. You can be resourceful. Last but not least, you could enjoy it!” – Jessie Campbell
- 449) “I've always been interested in playing the violin, but I never had the chance to do so until freshman year. Now as a junior, I have grown so much as a musician and I want to progress more and become and extraordinary violin player.” – Kevin Alvero
- 450) “The arts are important to me because it gives me an opportunity to connect with people who have similar interests as I do. I find that I have trouble socializing with other peers, but with my orchestra class, I find that I can easily talk to my peers as if they are part of my family. They are open to my mistakes and are always asking me if I need help on any of my music. The arts allowed me to get out of my comfort zone and gave me a chance to express myself.” – Alison
- 451) “The arts include so many things dance, drama, band, and so many more. The arts in school are a way to express yourself. The way I like to express myself is having equality because there are not many female drummers in school band and I want to make a difference in my school. Playing music always distracts me for the troubles at home so I guess I really like band and I don't care if that makes me a band geek. Thank you for your time. – Andrea S.
- 452) “Hello, I am Alonso Casas and i attend Olympian high school and I am a student of Abigail Serafin for photography. The arts are important to me because it is a form of expression, the expression of what you feel. There is no other class where you can express yourself this way in school, unless if you are doodling in class which you would most likely get in trouble for.”
- 453) “The arts are important to me because it can let you explore your imagination. The arts gives you an opportunity to become anyone you want to be.” – Marissa

- 454) “The arts are very important to not just myself but to all the people involved. Being in the arts are one of the few ways people are able to express their interests and are surrounded by other people who share a common liking without the fear of being judged. Involvement within the arts also ensures positive productivity within the community and promotes unity among its members. Having the option of any art department within school is crucial for striving students with a goal of bettering not just themselves but also the community that they'll eventually contribute their working ethnics, sense of responsibility, and ability to work with others that they learn from being within the arts.” – Patricia Lee Winters
- 455) “The arts have been a huge part of my life since I was eleven years old. The arts (particularly band), have helped me in so many ways. For example the arts have helped me in my reading skills, math skills, my patience, improving my discipline, and most importantly (to me), my people skills. I have made friends that grew to become my family every year. Not only do I increase in skills, but band increases in fun also. Getting a new piece of music is like facing a new problem in life. You have to practice, learn, and overcome everything to be great. Music is a journey like life is, and having loving friends with you along the way is such a blessing. I don't know any other way to say this, but I have no idea where or who I'd be without band.” Thank you for this opportunity to express how I feel toward this topic! – Stephanie Esparza, Olympian High
- 456) “Art is substantial to a students education and creativity, it flows and preserves the originality that is hidden in students worldwide. And gives interesting majors that people can possibly be interested in, and as well pursue in something they truly love.” – Preston Plotke
- 457) “The arts are important to me because it really makes me who I am. It lets me express my feelings. As a result I have very good grades. And it really boost my confidence in life and that is why the form of arts are important to me.” – Lilyana Pena, ELM
- 458) “The arts are important to me because it gives students the time to show off their talent and feel appreciated. Folklorico is one of the most important classes that I have because it's not only a culturally influenced elective but it's counts as one of the a-d requirements, we don't only dance but we learn about the Mexican culture.” – Brianna Sanchez
- 459) “The arts are important to me because when take art and we do a project it gives time to be creative and it lets me focus on what my task is to do it also gives me time to explore on the Internet for ideas from other artists.” – Luis Caballero
- 460) “The arts are important to me because it taught me more than the fundamentals of playing an instrument, acting, art, dance, or singing. It also taught me discipline and, more importantly, it taught me life lessons. The arts taught me that everyone plays a part and every part is important. Arts has also taught me that it takes a lot of dedication and practice to achieve the best that some can be.” – Alizah Abubo
- 461) “Arts are important for me because I think that it can help you discover yourself and also it can let you know if you want to make a career out of it but I think that if you had the option to decide if you want to take art classes in high school or not, I think almost nobody will take those classes because they think its boring but I think that's why its a requirement to graduate from high school, in order for people to realize that you can make a career out of it, if you are interested on arts.” – Alberto Castillo
- 462) “The arts are important to me because it's a way of self-expression. People really need to have a love in the arts to make it their career, and if we take that away this world would be dull. In my opinion, we need the arts to expand our creativity out in the world.” – Elena Malagon, ELM
- 463) “The arts aren't just important to me, they are THE most important to me. I always knew that I wanted to be a performer, not just any performer but someone who can be very versatile and who can inspire others to do what they truly love to do and what they're excellent at. I love writing and English but drama and singing/songwriting allow me to explore all areas of my talents. I've never been more in love with anything than I am with the arts and although it may sound exaggerated, my passion for drama, music and the stage saved me and made me realize that I have purpose within myself after all. Nothing has worked better for me than being able to express myself and gain perspective which allows me to relate to so many others than the art. The arts are my life, I can't even fathom where I'd be right now if I hadn't stepped out of my comfort zone and tried something new. I've found my passion and if anyone tells me differently then I would tell them I should've been born a different person with a different passion.” – Ruby Montoya

- 464) “Hi, my name is Lydia Fernandez. I am a drama and a dance major. The arts are important to me because they offer me an outlet outside of regular school curriculum to be artistic and engage myself in a fun activity. I enjoy doing drama and dance because they challenge me to better myself and calm me, making a bad day instantly better. Thank you. Have a nice day:)”
- 465) “The arts are important to me because it allows me to meet people that are interested in the same things I'm interested in. Choir has given me a second family and a class to look forward to.” - Alexandra Poland, Olympian High School, Teacher: Ms. Opdahl
- 466) “The arts help me express my feelings in ways I wouldn't be able to doing normal daily things. I love to sing and draw and even act, I recently auditioned for America's Got Talent for a singing act because it's something I love to do.” – Amanda Robbins
- 467) “For me personally the arts are not important because they don't benefit students academically.” – Ethan O'hara
- 468) “The art is important to me because it keeps me going and keeps me positive. Also when I'm feeling down or just happy art is the way I express my feelings.” – Marissa Sanchez
- 469) “The arts are important to me because it's good to learn and do other things with your friends. The arts can make you many get and keep many techniques that you learn in the arts. The arts can also be exciting and interesting to many people to. That is why the arts are important to me.” – Austin Magner
- 470) “The arts are important to me because it helps me in my educational way to expand my mind to learn more at school. I recall reading an article in school that said the arts for example art, band and ect help students get better grades. This was tested in a school where students had average grades and after adding the arts classes the majority of the students started to excel in learning. I personally think that the arts have benefited me in my education to excel in my grades.” – Brian Reyes
- 471) “The arts are important to me because it helps me be happier and it is exciting to explore the new places in art .” – Megan Hunnicutt
- 472) “Art classes are important because it's a stress reliever for some kids and it helps us to socialize more. It is also fun (at least a class where you can have a lot of fun) and not just worksheets and home works and tests and studying etc..” – Cha-hao Chen
- 473) “Photography class keeps the school going and students going with life outside a computer. For me it keeps me from going loco as it keeps me entertained and keeps my mind off math and English which is super. Don't take photography class away, you will take lives away from students who suicided from too much math and English.” – Gerardo Michel
- 474) “The arts are important to me because they show and demonstrate what you can be capable of. It is good for the brain and gets you above average of the normal human. Arts is a whole different subject and it has helped the world in many ways and also boosts your creativity and imagination that is used in everyday life. Art for me is technically a reason to stay alive.” – Juan Luis Saucedo
- 475) “My name is Seth Velasco and I attend OHS. I believe the arts are important because they bring a more fun and creative aspect to school. The arts let us sometimes express what cannot be expressed with words. They also teach that there are multiple solutions to one problem. The arts help students have experiences that you can have from no other class.”
- 476) “The arts are important to me because they provide opportunities for self-expression, by bringing the inner world into the outer world .As well as they can improve academic achievement like enhancing test scores, attitudes, social skills, critical and creative thinking. In addition the arts exercise and develop higher order thinking skills (including analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and "problem-finding.") – Ivan Hernandez
- 477) “The arts are important aspects here at Bonita Vista High School. I would just like to comment on why it is important to us students to keep the arts at school. The arts help us develop skills that we didn't even know we were capable of. Whether it be through dance, singing, musical instruments or artistic abilities, the arts have given

students the opportunity to fall in love with activities that they can become specialized in. Through art classes, many students find a passion that they may want to turn into a career. Many students find art as an escape, something they can do to make their day better or simply just enjoy doing. The arts are important to many students, and if they were taken away, many students would be saddened to find that the one thing that encourages them to come to school is gone. Therefore, I believe that the arts are important to schools and should not be taken away. Thank You.” - Krystina Bustos

- 478) “I feel free when I am on stage performing. Whether it be acting in a play, singing in a choir recital, or dancing at a showcase. I know I am openly expressing my self and I know I am truly happy. VAPA is important to me because it gives me a sense of purpose.. belonging.... identity. The classes provided at my school,(Dance, Choir, and Theatre etc.),help me to further develop the skills I need to pursue my dreams. Without them my life would have no sense of direction.” -Emily S.
- 479) “Art is an important tool that helps us express ourselves and I think it is something that everyone should know that art is everywhere in a dance, a song, a painting even in a book. Also while doing art for example in my Folklorico class I get to exercise have fun and the opportunity to tell a story through a dance, have at least one class where you can use your imagination and creativity and don't worry about numbers of formulas or if there is a right answer because with art there is never such thing as a right or wrong answer.” - Karla Gonzalez
- 480) “The arts is important to keep in schools to expand student's learning capabilities. The art of expressing ourselves through playing music, drawing, singing, dancing, and writing poetry is never limiting to the talents we fail to see inside the classroom. I have personally gained experience with student collaboration, oral presentation, and skill based assessments through an outlet in which I am comfortable to stretch myself in: the stage. Seeing myself grow in this aspect has allowed me to apply my confidence in academic terms as well; IB commentaries, socratic seminars, group projects, etc. A student that is given an outlet in which they recognize the potential in themselves to grow is destined to be a student model for all.” - Isabel Rodriguez, BVHS
- 481) “The arts program is a way to express oneself where you can't anywhere else. It's like an outlet, where one can let go of their current worries and challenges for a moment and to do what you love best, in my case singing. This allows one to make new friends and achieve experiences you can't experience anywhere else. This also helps me improve academically through time management, assertiveness skills, and also, study shows that music helps stimulate more parts of the brain than most other body functions, as said in an online article by Npr.org. Please don't allow the arts program to shut down.” - Music Machine student at Bonita Vista High School
- 482) “The arts is special to me because it provides a sense of belonging and comfort surrounded by what has become my second family. I hold many of them near and dear to my heart and its nice to belong to a group that really enjoys the same thing i like to do in reality.” – Abbey Janabajal
- 483) “Arts are important to me because they transmit emotions. A person can grow so much just by looking at a work of art, whether it be written, drawn, played, etc. I find it amazing that people understand works of art uniquely, as if the work of art adapted to the person, but at the same time transmitted the author's emotions and ideas to them. I believe that's the true beauty of art, to be able to connect emotions to people in their own individual way. I desire to be able to do that one day, and for that reason is why the arts are so important to me. Thank you.” -Valeria Almudena Garcia-Pereda
- 484) “To explain what the arts mean to me would take many hours and multiple pages to explain. Being in the vocal music department at Bonita Vista High School has impacted my life in numerous ways. Not only have I been able to be apart of the wonderful family known as the vocal music department but I have had the wonderful opportunity for the past three years to pursue my dreams in life and allow myself to be who I've always wanted to be. Being apart of the arts is a huge honor and a major part in my life that I never want to let go. We are more than a singing and dancing group, we are a family and the vmd is my home.” – Jackie Chavez
- 485) “The arts are important to me because it helped me open me up and become more social and helped me with a lot. The arts Always keeps me busy and gives me a sense of hard work and I'm always proud of the art we create. This is why the arts are important to me.” – Kayla Bolton
- 486) “Hi I'm Jamil AND I'm in Bonita Vista High School's Music Machine. I believe our district should keep performing arts because it's something many of us look forward to.”

- 487) “The arts are important to me because it gives me a way to unwind and relax through music. Also learning a new skill such as guitar made me feel cooler and like you only live once. Plus, I need to finish my A-G requirements but I actually really really like guitar class because I've always wanted to learn how to play an instrument.” – Danielle Torralba
- 488) “The arts are important to me because when I was younger, I was going through an extremely tough time with my family. I have played the violin for 3 years and have taken an art class for 2 years. The total impact these classes have done for me was astonishing. I am able to express myself freely through my music and art, and they continuously are a great therapeutic support when I need it most.” (Y.C. 12 - ELHS)
- 489) "An outlet for my creativity is vital in my life in order to escape the panic that follows me day to day. Without the arts, my conscious would be corrupted and lead to a biased interpretation of what my world could become" (A.B. 12th - EHS)
- 490) “In a society that has been consumed by copy and paste, where students robotically memorize the same information as the hundreds of other students in this country, creativity and imagination fade farther and farther away. Without the Arts, the Dream that this beautiful country was built upon, will fade into gray, leaving behind all of the swirling colors of the future beyond its reach.” (E.G. 11 – ELHS)
- 491) “Many people believe art is not a vital factor in our life. However that statement is invalid because art unlocks our creativity that as humans we all have. Art proves that we are all different by imagination but equal by creativity and makes discrimination nonexistent because we can only judge art by the uniqueness we all have inside.” (N.H. 11th – ELHS)
- 492) “Art is important to me because art is fun because you can draw what you feel or things that you like or just make something up. Art can be anything that you want it to be like you can turn trash to art, paint, you can put things together and it can be art if you want it to be art. I like art because you can express your feelings or mood or anything you want. I like art because you can basically see it anywhere in stores, cars, video games, even movies. That’s why I like art because its amazing, fun, and its everywhere.” - Jaethan Aflleje
- 493) “I am an 8th grade student that goes to Montgomery Middle. Art is important to me because I just love how you can turn old worn out stuff into a work of art. I love how creative you can be with Art, I also just love how you don’t have to listen to lectures and since I have Art for last period I kinda use it as an escape from all the stress and work that I had to do through out the day.” – Jessica Cesena
- 494) “Art is important to me because you can express you feelings when you draw or paint. You could do different types of painting with different emotions. It's also very peaceful and calm. Art is also really creative and it's fun.” - Anonymous
- 495) “Art is important to me because it releases the stress of all my classes it is really fun and it is for the creative minds of this school. You can draw whatever you ever you want and it is a really fun class to have in the schools instead of all the stress.” – Ricardo Cervantes
- 496) “Art is not only important for me, but for everyone that lives in planet earth. I say it like that because "earth" without "art" is "eh" and "eh" is boring. We basically see art everywhere we go. Weather its at the beach, stores, houses, or just the plain streets. You will see organic shapes, and shapes are part of art.” – Andrew Perez
- 497) “Art is important to me because I feel you get to have lots of creativity and freedom more than other classes because many of the other classes all they do is talk, and with art you get do more than just draw. You learn many new things. Art is also inspiring to many people like us.” – Bryan Chavez
- 498) “I like it” – Jashon Mullen
- 499) “The arts are important to me in many ways. Personally it's important to me because it's a way to express yourself. It's an outlet that I love and can be proud of, if I didn't have the arts I wouldn't have the self confidence I have now. But most importantly the arts are important to everyone they convey the human experience and can reach out to people and make them feel understood and not alone. There is something to a song whose lyrics everyone can relate to or a work of art that evokes feeling these things are important it's communication which is not something to be undervalued.” -Melissa Wildasin

- 500) “The Arts have been a very important thing in my life. The Arts are what inspired my future career and also gave passion into my life, I'm forever grateful to have been involved in the Arts, and wish to continue and inspire others to be in the Arts.” - With all due respect, Alexis Luna
- 501) “Art is important to me because it fun to perform. Music can help if you feel sad it can make you happy.” – Jayvion Burke
- 502) “No matter in art, music or dance it's a salvation for those who want to get away from the negativity in their lives.” – Emily Sterling
- 503) “The arts express emotion and compassion. It becomes less of an activity and more of a life style; a way of living.” – Ben Daniels
- 504) “The arts are important to me due to the fact that they act as an escape for me. When I'm sad or upset at something the first thing I turn to art. They have also kept me out of trouble over the course of my adolescent years. If it wasn't for any type of art, I would not be the same person I am today. I would probably be in a lot more trouble and really messed up. I eat, sleep, breathe, and live art and without it I would be nothing.” –TC
- 505) “Good evening, my name is Brianna Ronquillo and I attend Olympian high school. I'm taking art with Ms. Abigail Serafin. From my perspective, I believe that arts are important to me because art has a meaning to it. It's a beautiful piece of work that artist take their time on doing. I actually attended several art museums near Seaport Village and it gave me a new perspective about art. I always thought art was just whatever and I never really paid attention to it. After that day, I love looking at art now. I love to see the meaning that the art piece has. I always question myself though. Why did they draw this? I look at the every detail of the piece of art. I believe art is also important because some drawings represent something. Either a symbol, person, persons life, ect.”
- 506) “The arts are important to me because I love singing and when I'm in choir class I don't ever feel like a failure. I feel that many kids have talents specialized in the arts and for some the only time they can express that is in their class at school. The same way we cheer on our school sports team for playing good and they're doing what they love and what they're talented at, the arts program should have the same support. When I come to choir class and we start to sing, I get this feeling in my chest that's like all my emotions are swimming in my chest and its makes me feel so great that its a class that I have that I'm being graded for something I love. Music is very important to me and I know that it's important for so many other kids and that's why the arts are important to me.” – Alexandra Moreno
- 507) “There are many reason why the arts are important. The arts help people express their creativity in their own way. The arts are part of so many things in the world, for example the art is part or culture. Different cultures have their own type of art. Art is expressed through dance, music, drawing and though acting. Most people feel like the arts are not really important but they do not realize that its so much more than just preforming. The arts are the way people can just be themselves through whatever type of are they are into. This is why the art is important.” – Sydney Jimenez
- 508) “For me, the arts are a form of sanctuary from all of the hardships of the "real world". The arts allow individuals to create a safe haven and a friendly environment, building small communities of shared interests no matter the background of any individual.” – Andrea Rodriguez
- 509) “My name is Anizlet Vega. I attend OHS and my art teacher is Miss. Abigail Serafin. I believe that the arts are important so that one can explore their own imagination and of others. The arts are important directly to me because I find it satisfying for the mind to distract itself from the every day cycle.”
- 510) “The Arts are important to me because it's a way of expressing myself when words are not enough, the Arts are unique to each individual whether you dance, sing, draw, play an instrument, photography, etc. The individual takes what they love and create something beautiful, they are able to express what they feel in their own way with no limits, there is no right or wrong with the Arts because it's something that is unique for each individual. The Arts have given me an opportunity to escape reality in my hardest times, because it allows me to create whatever I want without feeling judged. And it has become a huge part of my life, that is why it's really important to me.” – Dafne Acuna

- 511) "The arts is important to me because it helps me and my class mates to represent our Mexican culture, like other classes that represent the culture of others." – Esmeralda Sunza
- 512) "I'm going to tell a short story today kind of to inform those of you interested in the art's. By Arts it doesn't necessarily mean just painting the arts is anything that can come from the creativity of the mind it can be music, dancing, acting, drawing, etc. From my own experience as a musician the arts have changed my life drastically. I know you might think it might be hard but once you realize your surrounded by group of people just like you. Those people become like your family after a while you bond, perform together, laugh together. It's a one of a kind feeling. You can let your mind roam free relax and escape from everything else. Honestly performing is my life I would change a performance over a party any day." – Hugo Lugo
- 513) "Arts is important to me because without arts there would be no talent in the world. Arts helped me learn how to play the Tuba. America even has its own talent show: AMERICA'S GOT TALENT. Talent can be inside you and you might not even know it." – Leonardo Casarrubias
- 514) "Art is important to me because it has helped me in my grades. Art or music has helped me overcome my anger issues. The music of my favorite rapper, Eminem, is my favorite because I could relate to him because his music that he made relates to something that has happened to me." – Angel
- 515) "Arts are important to people but in my opinion it allows me to express myself, get more creativity, develop skills, collaborate with others, and increases self confidence. I feel that with greater self confidence it allows me to achieve things in what I am working towards to. In arts it helps me to develop concentration in my music that will help me with other classes. Lastly, it helps me to confront the fears I have as well as other people." – Julie M.
- 516) "The arts are important to me because singing is one of my main hobbies. Singing is important to me because I just like singing in general and well I want to become an actual singer one day. I like singing in class but when people don't participate its quite annoying because in general that class is for singing and you know participate and well its not for just talking. I like participating in this class a lot and mostly when we sing when where not singing it feels like this is not a class anymore but mostly all the time we are." – Denise Lopez
- 517) "Art is important to me because it inspired, uplifted and deepened me without aesthetic standards, we have no way to determine quality or inferiority! When I do or make art I make my opinions known and felt. Jakob Rosenborg once said quality in art "is not merely a matter of personal opinion but to high degree objectively traceable." Art is made to profound, inspiring and beautiful but has been replaced with new, different and ugly. Today art is silly, pointless and purely but let us celebrate what is good and avoid what is bad. I am Andres Lozano for art."
- 518) "The arts make us human. If we don't have art we are machines. Plain and simple." -Leilani
- 519) "Art isn't just another hobby or a school work to get a good grade, it is a passion. Art is considered to represent the culture and/or the emotions of the person or a society. Art had it's way to show its culture/emotions on paintings, sculptures, or music. It wouldn't have been possible to see amazing art today. Artists who were popular like Leonardo Di Vinci were remembered in art museums and art college. Art will make you gain imagination and show the world your creativity. Now you know why art is important me and people." – Eduardo Vergara
- 520) "The arts are important to me because it's a way to express myself in ways that I can't through Math or English. I get to meet new people that share similar interests as me, and I get to create something that has the power to change and inspire others. The arts are an outlet, allowing me to be who I am, and see what I can do, with no limitations. It's a passion that I never want to let go." - Donniesha Goldsberry
- 521) "In my opinion I believe arts are important because if it wasn't for arts school would be boring. Arts are a big impact on the school and show a creativity part of our school. I'm a very creative person and I love trying new things in arts. So if it wasn't for arts our school wouldn't be the same as it is today." - Aolani Garcia
- 522) "The arts are important to me because music is an escape from problems I have in the world. It keep me going when I'm down and makes me realize things will always get better. The band organization is like a second family to me because i am always here learning great music and the people here are fun to be around and help you out when you need it. The arts will always be important to me because I have made it part of my life and I became a better person because of it." – Araceli Parra

- 523) “The arts are important to me because it's what they are all together that make them so great. Music itself is an art, and it's the one thing I like most. Not just because the beat is catchy or it can be something you can move to but because how deep and beautiful it can be. How moving it is, lyrics or no lyrics. Music is what can help you through a tough time or let you be yourself. I think that's special for everybody.” - Elisa Huevo
- 524) “The arts are important to me because it's a way to show your feelings. Like for me it is doodling. When you doodle on a corner of a piece of paper or on the edge of a desk it relieves stress and it actually gets you more concentrated on whatever you're doing. This is why the arts are important to me.” - Daphne Scarlett Soria Gonzalez
- 525) “The importance of the Arts in American schools is similar to the importance of football. American Arts programs are a feature of our schools that distinguish us from the 3rd world both culturally and economically. The Arts not only build up our culture, but also show other countries that we can afford to have our culture be distinguished and significant to the world. They might not be the most practical thing to have required for high school graduation, but Arts-based classes is something I would expect from any respected educational establishment. To take away Arts programs would be to take away our identity and dignity as a country.” – Matthew Villacruz
- 526) “I believe that every person has various reasons why any type of arts is important to them. For me the arts are important because I feel that they allow you to express yourself and let everything out. They let you release any type of feeling you are experiencing. Now in my opinion two of the best arts is art itself and band which I'm involved in. Another reason why art, especially band, is important to me is because it has been proven that playing an instrument makes you smarter and helps you gain skills like self-discipline and organizing. Finally arts (band) is important to me because it helped me find a second home, second family, and some kind of freedom. I see arts as being one of the few things that brings some kind of happiness to this world.” – Cassandra Lopez
- 527) “The arts are important to me because it helps me think. Music helps me understand things easier than when I didn't have my music class. I've been included in performing arts for a while and I haven't regretted joining since then. I enjoyed my times in the music arts. Learning the music makes this a part of my education and makes this fun. I don't want to lose it. I mean why get rid of it anyway when there's already so many people in it?” – Alyssa Williams
- 528) “The arts are important to me, as well as a significant amount of other people, because it is a way of positive self expression. I have always been an introverted person, and through the arts, mainly band and color guard, I have found a way to express what I'm feeling in a beneficial and creative way. Not only have the arts provided me with this way of expression, they have also helped me create many new relationships with people who have the same interests as me, and they have also made my high school experience one worth remembering.” – Amanda Velasquez
- 529) “The everlasting cries of the crowd cheering us on, the moon ever so clear, illuminating us with its silver rays, the scoreboard counting down the final seconds before show time. Adrenaline gushes within my veins preparing me ready for the start of my first performance. Like any other performer, it takes months and months of practice for an event that races by in what feels like only a few moments. I ready myself with my brass armor coiled around me like a snake, and with just one blow through a mysterious cone like piece of metal, I announce to the crowd, to the moon and to the rest of the world that I am here. And now, as if time has continued to pass with equal rapidity, four years have gone by in the blink of an eye. It is now my senior year and as I ready myself for the next great leap of my life, to me the arts are way to express the last four joyous years of my life.” – Steven Sylvia
- 530) “Art, we define that word like something relaxing or something that gives inspiration. In my mind, art is not only a piece of paper with a picture or a song with only dreamy lyrics. For me and I'm sure for others art is the space we need to find us, to know who we are and what are our goals for our future. Is the medicine when we are upset or the friend we need when we are happy, with the songs is the way we can express what we feel when we can't find the correct words to say it, with the dance is the we can give all when we have too much inside us, with the painting we can express our emotions that we have inside and not knowing exactly how to bring it out. Music, has been the part of the art most important to me, because has been there with me every single day, in the bad and good days, has been my therapy to calm me down and to know that everything that happens at the end. like a song will mean something in our life or maybe in the future. And music is important to me because every song is a story of my life.” – Araceli Duran

- 531) “To me, Arts gives us the liberty to express ourselves in a way that we can’t usually do. It’s easier to show you a picture of happiness, pain or any other type of emotion rather than telling in words. Arts can open your mind to a whole new world, it gives you the ability to think more critically and makes you understand more about humans, their pain, their happiness or any other. Whether it’s painting, dancing, singing, etc. Arts clearly will give you a good view of performing arts.” - Zazil Carbajal
- 532) “Why is arts important to me. It is important to me because I have realized how music can impact a personal life positively. When participating in a band, orchestra or any sort of group of music, your mind sets forward to more learning & more stress free environment. I believe being in Orchestra gave me an easier time to go through my freshmen year in high school. I met new people, I learned more than what I have already known and I have memories that I will take with me forever. Music can provide everyone with special moments through life. This is why arts is important to me.” - Joana Perez
- 533) “I think arts are important because they can be used as a way of entertainment, hobby or even a way for some to communicate. I personally like playing an instrument as a pastime and because I enjoy it. There's a lot of things that can be an art, and I think arts can also make the world brighter.” -Oscar Cervantes
- 534) “Arts are important to me because I can express my self by dancing and making music. Dancing its my favorite art class because I feel the energy of the music and my feet feel it. My emotions get crazy when I hear the Ballet folkloric music its make me feel happy. I think Performing arts it’s a good program for each school because not all of us like to do sports, so making performing arts its our way to follow the ball like in a sport.” – Elizabeth Martinez
- 535) “The arts are important for me because they are something I have a passion for and get my mind off of things. Its different for every person, in my case it’s music; it makes me express myself and calms me down, gets me happy, excited to play more. It’s something you can see yourself progressing and get closer for what you set yourself up to. The good thing about music is that you can do so many different things and you can always improve from where you are, if you are dedicated to it. If someone has been considered the best on something they do, it doesn’t mean you stopped there just because of what people think or say; it’s how you view yourself. Asking yourself, “Is this really best I can be?” If you think that’s nowhere where you had planned to be or feel that you had reached it, but you still want to improve; you will do whatever it takes to get there.” – Katia Castillo
- 536) “Without art we would have nothing. It is one of the best ways that we have to express feelings, whether you create it or simply recreate. For example: the sound produced by sliding fingers on the piano transmits not only feelings, but it also tells a story. In my opinion, the human is an artist by nature. So if you ask me, why is art important to you? My answer is... because it is the only thing that nobody can take away.” – Berenice Morales
- 537) “Art is important to because it allows me to express myself without using words and put it on display.” Hannah Martinez
- 538) “Art is important to me because it’s a way that you can express your feelings and be creative. Another reason why art is important to me is because It is really fun to do on your own time. The last reason why art is important to me is because I like how some of the drawings are really colorful.” - Amanda Shaw
- 539) “Arts are important to me because they helped me get out of my shell they helped me get out of my comfort zone, and realize how beautiful arts can be, I also realized that I want to make art my career.” - Aiden Mattingly
- 540) “The arts are everywhere, we see them on streets, walls, and we listen to them. Without art, there really isn’t much fun. To me, art is someway to explore my feeling in a way words can.” - Saeli Lopez
- 541) “Art is important to me because it lets me be creative and shows my true identity.” – Isabel Sandoval
- 542) “The arts is important to me because with these great tools, we can create something beautiful. These things shape your life and play an exciting role! in the arts there are variety of ways to express every detail of a story and a human being.” –Jennifer
- 543) “Art is a very important asset in our society because it helps us express ourselves and it also allows us to represent our culture; therefore I believe that it should be respected. This is my fourth year in Ballet Folklorico and as the years pass by our class continues to struggle in many ways. Each year it becomes even harder to find an adequate place where we can practice after school. This is because the school gives priority to other groups such

as sports. Furthermore, it is outrageous that we can't access our storage during certain hours because of sports. Another concern that I have is that we were removed from our classroom around November, it is very concerning that we do not have a permanent classroom. Moreover, I believe that my class has been the only one to suffer so has Mariachi and other branches of arts. I believe someone needs to do something about these very uncomfortable situations.” – Elsa Davalos

- 544) “The arts are important in many different ways. To one, art can be their relief from stress, or a stressful day and for another, art could let a person find or show their creative side. Art whether it is actual painting art, design and mixed media art, or photography, a person can find their creative outlet in that field and maybe it might just become their career choice or major. Albert Einstein once said "true art is characterized by an irresistible urge in the creative artist" and with normal classes, like math, English, and so on, a person cannot bloom their creative abilities to become an artistic flower.” Kylie Mello
- 545) “Art is important to me because, i can express who I am without getting judged for it.” – Galadriel Bessette
- 546) “I believe its important to keep arts in school because it is an amazing way for students to express themselves, and art is important to me because it relieves stress from students. Art is very fun, and me and my friends enjoy doing it at the end of the day.” -Ryan Swadener, Eastlake Middle School
- 547) “The arts are important to me because its a fun way to express who you are and a way to get youre mind off things and have fun but still learning at the same time.” – Hannah Nava, ELM
- 548) “The arts are important to me because not only can it bring peace, it can be more than one subject.” – Jason Brooks
- 549) “Art is a way to express how I feel about certain things. I like a TV show, I gain interest in drawing about it. But before that you have to learn what art is and how to properly do everything right in it. Art is practice, leading you into something bigger.” – Angelo Jon Rivera
- 550) “Art is important to me because it is a way to express my self in a way that I wouldn't be able to in words. It helps me pass thru hard times. Art has made a difference to me because it changes my way of thinking feeling and seeing.” – Omar Inzunza
- 551) “The arts are important to me because someday I want to be a really good piano player and drawer. The arts are really exciting because you don't know what you are going to do and it is also need creativity to do things like drawing and playing piano.” David Martinez
- 552) “Art is important because it helps me express myself. Painting is something that helps me focus I dream my painting and I paint a dream.” – Malliya Johnson
- 553) “The arts are valuable because they make our world pretty and brighter. Our schools need art because in order to show more school sprite.” Allan Zermeno, ELM
- 554) “Since I was little I have always had difficulties telling my feelings to people including my family, I was never really able to express what I actually felt. Throughout my childhood I drew what I felt and showed it to my mom so she could figure out how I was really feeling. Art was my form of communication with those who cared about my feelings. After the drawings from my childhood I began to improve my drawings and I started to draw just for pleasure. I enjoy creating new drawings and putting my creativity, imagination and feelings on paper. Besides drawing I like singing, since a really young age I would sing in front of my family members. Music helped build my confidence and helped me with my depression. To conclude I believe Art is form of self expression that anyone should be exposed to.” – Kelsey Herrera, CPH
- 555) “The arts are something that all humans have, do, and will create for as long we are humans. Why smother an aspect that everyone human in schools, when it's all around us. It's our connection to the past, it's the getaway to the future, and the similarity that connects all humans.” - Marcel Lavigne, Olympian High School, VaPa: Choir
- 556) “The arts are important to me because I like the sounds of the music. The arts also important to me because it helps with my education. Also the arts help me relax and think.” – Elvia Noel

- 557) “Without arts life would be meaningless. When Winston Churchill was asked about cutting the arts in order to fund the war he responded, “Then what are we fighting for?” Arts are stress relieving, whether it's making music, painting, dancing or simply viewing them, one can relax and enjoy the beauty of the world. The arts are what keeps the world from falling apart. The arts means the world is still together. To me the arts means that there is still humanity in an inhumane world where not many care about each another.” – Julia Robles
- 558) “Art is important to me because it helps me express the emotions my appearance or speech prevents me from revealing to others. Without art there would be absolutely no uniqueness between the numerous students attending the school. If you take away the arts from school, you'll be a murderer of imagination.” – Kiana Hernandez
- 559) “Hi my name is Kevin, art matters because it shows the creativity of people who aren't very bright in other subjects. It shows Inspiration and gives a chance so they can show who they really are! Therefore art is an important to society because it's another way to express who they really are.” -Kevin Solano
- 560) “I think it's important to have the arts in school because I can express myself. Our school day needs the arts in order to be creativity and in the future, it can be my career. Some times arts gives me emotional.” Aria Apatan
- 561) “Art class and yearbook is so important, and really opens everyone's eyes to be open minded. There isn't just one opinion and art allows people to express their own without being judged. To have this class at a time when we are developing our personalities is a really great opportunity to find what we are truly passionate about. (yearbook should get an A-G requirement because creating a yearbook is a personal organic creation)” -Lauren Turner, Eastlake High school
- 562) “The arts are important to me because I can comfortably express my feelings through music. Although I am not the best songwriter, I can use other songs to express my emotions and even alter them so they're more relatable to me.” –Mercedes
- 563) “The SCPA is a wonderful program. Music, art drama, all of these electives. We are given the chance to show just what we can do. We are given the opportunity to grow and shape into even better versions of ourselves. I am in both drama club and advanced chorus. Being in both these programs have helped me both physically and mentally in growing as an individual. My individuality can be expressed freely. That is why the arts are so important.” – Ashley Hoffert
- 564) “I think the arts are important because they help people build confidence. Especially in performing arts were you have to perform in front of people which can really be nerve racking. Drama has made it a lot easier for me to be able to perform or even just talk in front of a group of people.” – Grace
- 565) “The arts are important to me because in there I can be myself in a way. In drama I can work on my creativity and my cooperation with others. Through out this course I have worked on so many fun projects and have gotten to meet and work with so many amazing and fun people. Drama is always the class that I look forward each day, even when I'm having the worst day possible, I can always count on drama to cheer me up.” – Dimna Jimenez
- 566) “Art is important because without art we would be stupid. And Hinkle would have no job .. Or he would have to teach health again and I don't think that a teacher who eats plants or drinks water from the mop bucket or eats yogurt that's sat outside his class for 3 days should be teaching students how to be healthy.. Maybe we should cut health out before art because honestly no students actually pay attention to health and we still have pregnant students with 9 stds so... and I think that you would probably have a lot of paperwork to deal with at the district from some really annoying and loud soccer moms who want their children to take art soooo... Art Matters!!! Yeah (-:” – Douglas Holman
- 567) “The arts are important to me because they allow me to express myself. The arts teach me important skills, like creativity and confidence.” – Jessica Estrada
- 568) “The arts are important to me because I feel free and alive while I'm performing. I can truly be myself while acting. There is no judgment there is no negatively. I came to Chula Vista High School for the arts without the arts school wouldn't be the same.” – Milinda Jimenez

- 569) “Art is important to me because I like dancing and dancing is a form of expressing yourself like art. I like dancing art because all i do is dab and I'm not good at drawing so i was sorry about the email earlier but i was not lying all i do is dab. I do like art because dancing is fun so why do drawing when you be dabling and its fun pipe it up.” – Jadon Eugene
- 570) “The arts are important to me because it's a place where I can express myself. When I'm on the stage it's like a whole new world where I can become anybody I want. Without the arts express my ways would be more different.” – Yesenia Alcaraz
- 571) “The visual and performing arts is a way to express your individuality and an outlet for emotion to show though. For me the arts is an important part of my daily life in those aspects I can't imagine not being apart of the arts.” - Joyce Varias
- 572) “The arts are important to me because they help me express myslef that nothing else can. Being in color guard and playing violin give me something to look forward to, something to want to be better at, something more fun than math to learn. It has changed my life in a way which if I didn't have the arts, I would be in a big mess and probably have made wrong decisions. Through the arts I have made new friends and aquired new skills that not many people understand. I am at the happiest person I can be with the arts.” – Camilla Kaae
- 573) “Why I think the arts are important is because the idea of having something to give to us other than work that is for our requirement. I see it as a relaxation of what the stress school it's self has given to the students by test, quizzes or exams. Even though the arts themselves give tests, it only shows how their abilities have improved since they joins one of the many arts in the school. These abilities the arts give us could be used in a way that is minor in some places but helpful none the less. Also it's kind of fun when you get to choose between the he many various arts and with your friends if you can. In more detail, it could be used as a backup major if you can't seem to archive what your major is. I believe arts are very important in more ways than one.” - Enice Crews
- 574) “I enjoy the arts more and more as time goes on because it is a way for anyone to express their individuality along with creativity. I have taken a liking to Color Guard and watching Olympic Rhythmic Gymnastics because it takes dance to another level. I have always wanted to dance yet after seeing how amazing Guard was and what they could do with dancing and equipment, I decided to join and be a part of something incredible. Not only am I fond of what I do, Guard benefits me by keeping me busy and having a sense of accomplishment in the end. I feel that more students should at least try something with the performing arts whether its band, color guard, drama, etc. in order to try something new and creative. After all, it's a great way to be further educated in teamwork as well as determination.” – Ariana Sanchez
- 575) “When I barely started playing music, 4 years ago, I never thought that it would become such a big part of my life to the point where I would want to get a career as a music teacher. Music has impacted my life in many great ways, such as allowing me to express myself with every piece of music I play for my school's orchestra, or for any other performing arts. I've come to find myself in the music and instruments I play, every note, scale, accidental, and eighth note I play has shaped me into who I am and somebody who I always wanted to be. Performing arts has allowed me to meet people who share the same passion and goal as me, and many people who I can play music that we appreciate because I appreciate every single song I play. I could not thank my music teachers enough for all they've taught me, and I am really thankful for all the music knowledge so far.” – Isaac Padilla
- 576) “The arts are important to me because it gives me a source of creativity in a daily schedule. I am very passionate about drama and I identify with this art, it allows me to live the magic of living many life's not just my life . Drama gives me almost an escape route to become somebody else and that's why I love it.” – Briana Valenzuala
- 577) “The arts are very important to me. They are important to me because drama has helped me so much. My confidence has been lifted and grow so much, because of drama. Acting makes me feel like I can be whoever I want and play that role. I can get out of my comfort zone with the people in class, because it's almost like a family, we help each other, encourage each other, and push each other to be the best we can. And most important I've always wanted to be an actress and this class is really helping me with how I'm supposed to play the role and be characterized. Without the arts school would be very boring and I wouldn't look forward to coming.” – Bella Flores
- 578) “Music is important to me because music is something that calms your stress down it makes you feel better when your down I have a lovely teacher and she's the best teacher that you can have she makes music fun. I have only

been playing music for like three weeks and I really like I feel this could get you far. By the way my name is Andrik Haros and I attend hilltop middle school and this is why music is important to me.”

- 579) “Whether it be acting, singing, or dancing, performing has always been the only constant in my life. While everything around me changed- and while I've changed myself- my passion for entertainment has remained. The arts provide a powerful platform where I truly believe anything is possible.” - Liana Aguilar
- 580) “In my case the arts are important because they allow me to cope with the stress of daily life. When there is anger, draw; when there is sadness, play music; and when there is happiness dance. You can do many things in order to express your emotions with the arts. A piece of music will sound different depending on the emotions you impart into it and a drawing can have many meanings depending on your mood. All in all, the arts are important because they allow people to be human and express their many emotions.” – Jose Ruiz
- 581) “The arts are an important part of my life because they help me deal with stress. They can also help you be better at math. Performing can be a release of energy for people who have too much. They can teach you how to be responsible so that when you're older you can be more mature.” - Adrian
- 582) “Art class is important to me because I get to have fun and express my creativity, I also like to have at least one class I enjoy during school.” – Alani Contreras, RDRM
- 583) “Art class is important to me because it lets me express my creativity. Art class is where I can be myself in my work. Lastly, art is important to me because it helps me in my other subjects.” – Isabella Colcleaser
- 584) “Music is important to me because it gives me life. I couldn't imagine life without music. It fills a place in my heart that nothing else can! Music honestly takes up the majority of my life, so of course I love it.” - Allison Simon, Hilltop middle
- 585) “My name is Ana Bucardo and I am a senior at Eastlake High School. Because I want you to understand why art is so important to me I want to tell you a little more of my background; I was born and raised in Mexico City, a city where art is everywhere, from legendary artists such as Kahlo and Rivera to local artist that paint portraits of people on the streets. Growing up, I remember going to museums and exhibitions, being fascinated by the different forms of art presented. I was just, and still am, so amazed by the many different representations of art and how each artist portrays a different message. As kid, you grow up hearing these big names of what became the pioneers of art; Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and then you familiarize yourself with “some paintings”, The Mona Lisa, Starry Night, and The Last Supper. That’s mostly what most people know about art; but I wanted to know a little bit more, just a little... I wanted to know who was this Monet and why did his paintings seemed so “artsy”, I wanted to know who was Picasso and why his paintings didn’t make any sense, I wanted to know what is it that makes all of these artists great and mostly, what is art and what makes something be considered art. As my mother told me while I was picking my schedule for senior year and I was left with the choice to take AP Statistics or AP Art History, she said “Look, there is something that is worth more than just a jump start on credits for your major, and that is the gift of knowledge, the gift of culture, nobody can’t take that away from you and being someone who knows a “little bit more” about literature, art or history makes a great difference on the person you are”. Taking AP Art History has been one of my favorite learning experiences, I like the most the fact that Art History allows me to analyze the reaction of people over the years towards changes and innovation and how our world develops each and every single day. I feel that in order to create you need to understand. I still don’t know what makes something a piece of art, but I do know that no matter where I go, I can recognize art when I see it.”
- 586) “Whether you aspire to become a performer or not, the ability to express yourself is crucial to success. The arts give us the chance to release our emotions, to improve on our talents, and become who we were meant to be. Chula Vista High School is the place where we develop confidence, where we can be creative, and where we learn how to collaborate; and whether or not you choose to work as an entertainer, the arts will forever have an enormous impact in our lives.” – David Mancias
- 587) “Some people are gifted with intelligence. Others can be athletic. What if you aren't that 4.0 g.p.a student who can't play sports or interact normally in this modern age. Today, we have art. Art is a way to express one's self. A way to find our true passions and inner conscious. To some, people believe art is a rather boring thing. To sit and focus on drawing or painting. Why do that when you can go out and throw some footballs? It takes someone of mature status to really appreciate art and to find the patience and dedication to put your heart into something that can truly show your talents and skills. In high school, many students are still too young and immature to really

appreciate or care for the arts. When you bring art classes and digital forms of art here, those who are truly patient and genuine will take this opportunity to let their personality and emotions fly free onto a piece of paper or canvas. It is amazing what art can do to one's self-esteem and inner passions.

Art captures raw emotion--hours of work and dedication is put into each piece. It is something not everyone can do. So providing art is a crucial and appreciated step in the high school years of an adolescent.

That is why the arts is important to me. It helps those who have trouble speaking for themselves to show with pride and confidence.” – Demaree

- 588) “Art is a way to express ourselves. It is a way life and should kept at all schools!!!!!!!!!!!! Imagine taking art out of life. No music, no painting/ museums, no nothing. Art is used everyday and it should be kept that way!!!!” – Arlene Alva
- 589) “Art matters because without it there is no expression of individuality in school. Art classes are the reason students don't lose their mind and are able to do what they want for once.” – Saul De Los Santos
- 590) “We need art. It helps us to express our individuality. Art helps keep the sanity of my mind after a day of algorithms and historical facts that bore everyone to sleep.” – Anonymous
- 591) “Art is important because it teaches students to think differently. It lets students be creative and it expresses students individuality. Art is another way to relieve stress and enjoy school.” –Sammy Magallanes
- 592) “We should keep art because it expresses creativity and art is important to many people! Art keeps my sanity and helps me not like scene girls. Thank you.” – Gerard
- 593) “The arts haven't been important to me up until this school year. I used to just talk to my small group of friends and sit at home by myself. I was really quiet and kept to myself. I didn't really have fun in life up until July 2015 when I went to my first marching band practice. I was really stressed because I'd never touched an instrument or any sheet music before but everything turned out fine. I started learning, having fun and making friends. Band helped me get over a health issue I had for over 2 years by giving me a reason to get out of bed and do something rather than be lazy and eat. Band is one of the best decisions I've ever made and I look forward to the next 3 years in band, that will hopefully be as fun as this year.” - K. Lanier
- 594) “The arts is important to me because it is a way to express myself in a very creative way. Being in drama has helped me be more outgoing and more confident. If it wasn't for the arts, I wouldn't have all the friends I have.” – Samantha Olmos
- 595) “My name is Thelma Franco I go to sweetwater schools. The arts have changed my life in many ways its made me a better person not physically but also mentally it releves me from stress”
- 596) “The arts are very important to me because they allow people to learn about diverse heritages, and cultures. Without the arts, we wouldn't be able to share different types of music, or dances with other people. The arts allow people to express what types of dances, music, or art they appreciate, and allow others to appreciate it as well. For example, in choir, I get to sing, share and learn about different types of music, while also having fun! I can express myself in a whole different way than I can in my other academic classes, while having others appreciate me for what I contribute to the group. This is why the arts are so important to me.” - Katherine Cajés
- 597) “The arts are important to me because each class demands student participation that is very distinctive in its individual interpretation, whether it be the style of brush strokes, the character on the stage, the tonality of instruments, or the timbre of the human voice. This, in turn, recognizes that students all have a unique aspect of their identity that they can creatively contribute to the society ahead of them.” – Stephen Evangelista, Olympian High Choir
- 598) “VAPA Representative, Arts for me are very important to learn more about yourself and who you are going to become. Having an art class does not only contribute to our education but it helps us become who we want to by experiencing deeper feelings towards our mind. Art should not be taken away from us because it is very

fundamental for our education. You should really consider this because without art there is no imagination or productivity, and that will really affect any school or person.” – Sylvia G.

- 599) “During the most stressful days of school, the arts will find a way to alleviate ones worries. For example, a student who is stressed out academically enters Choir class. During the rehearsal, the student has a splendid time with fellow musicians. Afterwards, the student is no longer suffering from stress and is now enjoying life thanks to the arts. To conclude, the arts can make someone's day in the simplest of forms.” - Gabrielle Panganiban, Olympian High School
- 600) “Arts are important to me because is one thing that makes us human. Ballet folklorico is special to me because of my grandma cultures. I believe that the world is a better place with art in it.” – Stephanie M.
- 601) “Why are the arts important to me you might ask. To me it feels like family and I'm just really excited that I am the third of my family to be able to be in Ballet Folklorico. The reasons I joined ballet folklorico is because my grandfather told me this is the most important thing in our culture and I really want to make him proud.” – Yesse Arechiga
- 602) “The arts are important to me because they represent life in pictures, paintings and in many other different ways. The arts show a variety of colors, form and texture. Each piece of art has a meaning to it and it inspires me to make more art with either a camera and / or my phone. The arts are important to me because it shows different kinds of way to express yourself. I honestly love showing my kind of art because it shows who I really am, that is why I think art is important.” - Alyssa Anchondo
- 603) “Music has been a part of my life for a while now. It has been about 5 years since I have started playing the violin. It all started in the 3rd grade through Opus. I am now in 8th grade and still in this great program. They gave us an opportunity to play any orchestral instrument. I wanted to play the bass first but, my mom said I should play the violin because I was too small. I didn't agree with her at first because I wanted to be unique but, then I learned you can be different with your instrument in your own way.” - Mirella Sarmiento
- 604) “Dear Board Members, music is important to me because its all I've done for the past 5-6 years not only viola but guitar and other instrument such as the ukulele. And Opus and Hilltop middle has helped me to proceed in my long journey of music.” – Andres T.
- 605) “Dear Board Members, My name is Luna Enriquez, I have been playing the violin for around 5 years. I started in 3rd grade when I joined the community opus project. I remember I was excited to learn a new instrument, I would practice every day when I came back home, and sometimes even perform to my parents and call them "mini concerts." I met new friends and got to know people more, by the first year some kids got out of opus. But I stayed even though I found it difficult learning a new instrument, I knew I could do it. I just needed time. Somewhere around the 2nd or 3rd year of playing I joined San Diego Youth Symphony which took place in Balboa Park and was kind of nervous to play in a bigger group than I was used to. I would go to my classes in Balboa every Saturday/Sunday. I would make new friends and have fun with the ones I already had. Now I'm in 8th grade attending Hilltop Middle School. My classes have advanced, I'm now in the Opus Honors Orchestra every Friday with my chamber group and Mr. Mario. I also take 7th period advanced strings with my conductor Ms. Bruce. Even though some of our groups have changed to different schools, or dropped out. The friends who are still with me playing today, are not even friends to me. They're my family. That's why music is important to me, it brings people together and we all have a good time on the way. We're a family.” – Luna Enriquez Mondragon
- 606) “I am Jesus Garcia a hilltop middle violinist in the seventh period. I have been playing for five years and music has influenced my life in many ways. The first way is school, music has helped me a lot. My grades went up and I understood lots of more subjects, for example English. I never really was good in English until music it helped me with my comprehension, grammar, and reading. Last year I read the ODDEYSSEY. Since first grade I've played the violin. I started in the community opus project. I have met many more people, got new friends and learned different styles of teaching. Music has influenced my life in so many other ways.”
- 607) “Hello. My name is Diego. I really like playing music. It is that one thing that just lets me escape all of the stresses of life. Whenever I begin playing, I hear the harmonies of the piece playing. When I am playing I also feel like I am in a world of peace. When I enter my music rehearsals, be it school or Opus, I re enter the one place where I feel at home. I have been playing for almost six years now and have had many forms of instruction, but my passion for music remains the same.” – Diego Garcia

- 608) “Dear Board Members, Hi! I think that music is really important to me. I play the double bass at Hilltop Middle. It is very important to me because I have no other hobbies, and I really like to play an instrument.” – Antonio G.
- 609) “When I first joined middle school band, I thought that playing an instrument would be cool. Given a choice of instruments to play, playing a clarinet like the character “Squidward” seemed like the best choice for me at the time. Now, with my musical education still ongoing in High School, the arts have had a greater importance to me. While just performing in an ensemble is extremely fun for me, the arts have given my mind an outlet to exercise. Even though some kids my age are just playing video games constantly and wasting away themselves on technology, the arts toughen my brain. Paraphrasing a certain band director, you can apply the same discipline towards practicing your instrument to other things in life, like academics.” – Bryan H.
- 610) “Art is an expression of how a person is. People get to show another side of them that everyone else doesn’t normally see. Art is an outlet for me to express myself. I love that no one judges art since it’s about the way you feel and like to do. Art helps everyone express their feelings about the world and others.” – Austin H.
- 611) “Hi my name is Matthew and I attend Otay Ranch High school, and this is why art is important to me. It gets me closer to my classmates and this really connects because it’s about having a great experience while in school. I enhance my creativity and visual learning's skills. Having creativity really can have an impact on my school learning and my career. Learning about the camera is a fascinating technology that can express what I’m thinking mad, sad, excited, joyful, happy. This is why I really liked taking visual and performing arts.”
- 612) “Arts let me express myself in ways words can't. I use creativity to show my feelings so that the world can perceive it in their own perspective and maybe relate the same way.” –Anonymous
- 613) “Hi my name is Denise Guerrero and I go to Hilltop Middle School and I play violin in strings. I really enjoy playing music at school it makes me feel happy and confident knowing that I’m able to do something that involves being creative. Music is really important to me. Music was always there for me if I ever had a bad day or when I was ever feeling sad. I really enjoy playing music at hilltop.”
- 614) “To me, the performing arts is a chance at rebirth. They allow us to play characters and people we could only dream of. I’m glad I am able to be a part of something so great as this.” (Rafa Carrillo)
- 615) “What the arts mean to me... It gives people a chance to express themselves, or to do something that they wouldn’t normally do. For example, I joined theatre because it looked like a fun and easy way to relax. Now I use the plays as ways of gaining more confidence in how I talk in a crowd of strangers. The arts are important to everyone, but for different reasons. That is why I love it so much (even if I sometimes whine about how much work it is.) (Vanessa Johnson)
- 616) “Visual and Performing Arts is a crucial aspect in defining a culture and a way of life. Something that remains in the world even if the society has gone extinct, and it unites people of all different backgrounds.” (Nicole Phelps)
- 617) “The Visual and Performing Arts shows and expresses the talent and creativity within the students. Not only that, it helps students to relax and it gives them a chance to have fun by doing what they like, such as singing, dancing, and acting. It shows how talented we are, and the beauty and struggle in our lives.” (Daniel Peralta)
- 618) “I think it’s the only place where I have ever have [sic] a voice. (Anonymous note)
- 619) “Arts are important to me because it's a good way to bring out my creativity. Art is a good way to express how a person is feeling or their personality from their drawing style, type of music they play, etc. I draw in my spare time and it's a way for me to draw out what I feel since I'm not really good with words.” – Paulette Swanson
- 620) “My name is Arianna. I go to Hilltop Middle School and I’m in 6th period band. Music is important to me because I love playing my violin. School is one of the only places I can play specially since a new sibling will be coming soon. Music is my way of escaping from all of my troubles specially since my family is going through a tough time. I want to go to collage and when I grow up I want to be a musician.”

From Middle Schoolers:

- 621) "Arts is important to me because I like to sing. Singing is soothing and music is too. The music and beat control you, and takes over. Music is great, and I was born to sing. And, I know I have a talent. I want to be the best singer I can be, so music and singing is important to me".
- 622) "Arts have helped me mentally and emotionally. I love the arts".
- 623) "The arts are important to me because it helps me express myself. The type of arts I use the most is music, because it helps me feel happy".
- 624) "The arts are important for very many reasons. One is that it brings out the creativity of people".
- 625) "Music in school is important to me because it creates friendships and gets you involved. Music/choir in my school helps me because it eases my mind from all of life's issues".
- 626) "The reason why the arts are important to me is because it allows me to be myself and express myself in song. I've always loved the arts, and the arts make me feel special".
- 627) "The Arts are important to me because it give me an escape. And, it gives me a chance to have more friends".
- 628) "Arts are important to me because I love to sing. Also, because it helps me get into a good college".
- 629) "The arts are important to me because it teaches me responsibility. This is because you need to know your music".
- 630) "The art is important to me because it gives you rhythm. It helps you be a more focused person. And, it's just a little bit more fun than regular classes".
- 631) "Music is important to me because it drains my pain, and helps me with concentrating".

From High Schoolers:

- 632) "In a school system where academic grades are how we are judged as students, it's nice to have the arts; a program where creativity is praised, and there is not set way of thinking is incredibly refreshing and uplifting".
- 633) "The arts are important to me because they re a way I can express myself. I feel like I can be myself with the arts".
- 634) "The Arts mean a lot to me because without it, I would not be able to express. I wouldn't be able to afford piano, dance or vocal lessons. With the arts, I am able to do all three. It's been an amazing experience".
- 635) "The arts are important to me because I can express myself at school. Personally, I love music, so being able to play guitar everyday in class is amazing".
- 636) "The arts are important to me because they represent success in a lot of people's lives. It also has made my future more clear and influences me to work hard".
- 637) "I believe that art is a way to express yourself. Music, dance, and drama are really important parts of my life because they make the world more fun and enjoyable".
- 638) "The arts are important to me because they allow me to express myself. Also, they enable me to have some stress-free zone in school, because music has that effect on people".
- 639) "The arts are important to me because I have grown up singing and drawing, and it is a part of who I am. Without the arts, I would not be the person I am".
- 640) "The arts are so important to me because Music has always been my get away, and one time I can act like myself. It's always been a major part of my life"

- 641) "The arts gives students the ability to truly express themselves, which can be hard to do in high school, due to all of the changing surroundings. Not only does the arts help show creativity, statistics have shown the arts helps the learning process in developing adolescents".
- 642) "The arts allow individuals to express their feelings/emotion through different forms of music, art, dance etc. It connects the person to their passions and paves a path of positivity". (Piano major)
- 643) "The arts mean to me that you can explore your imagination. The arts give you a chance to find yourself".
- 644) "The arts are important to me because they help release my inner talents and allow me to have fun doing something I love. I think the arts allow people to express themselves. The art also bring people together that sometimes you wouldn't even think the person to have the same likes".
- 645) "The arts are important because they help students express their individuality. Whether it be dancing, singing, or painting, the arts help students put their emotions into a passion they love. The arts can also act as a sanctuary for students. After a long or stressful day, the student can come to their class and de-stress".
- 646) "The arts are important to me because it helps me to release my stress. The arts have also helped me to keep motivated for school".
- 647) "Choir as in the arts is real important to me because it gives you a high school experience that is unforgettable. You learn so much, hear from different people & get to choose what you want to be a part of. The arts give a whole different outlook on life".
- 648) "To me art plays a big role in my life because it entertains me and I have always started drawing and scribbling. A world without art would be boring because art makes me experience happy emotions and art is also my number one hobby." CVM Student
- 649) "I think the Arts are really important to me because I really think that my life can come to life with art. I like that I can enjoy and learn about how we can make art come to life and make it look realistic. I also like art because it is really fun. I like how we can mix colors to make a picture come to life, or papier-mâché to make cool animals or other figures. Also in art what we learn when we are young we can do more in the future that will help us remember our notes from elementary, middle, and high school. This is why I think art is important in life." CVM Student
- 650) "The arts are important to me because it's the one class I enjoy and doesn't stress me out. Also, with all the drama in my life, it helps me express my feelings and just let out everything. Also, it has been my inspiration since I was 3, I went to pre-school and I always went straight to the art supplies. My teachers always wondered why, but it was because I enjoyed it and let my mind go of things when my family had problems. Art is the one place I would go to when nobody listened." - Stephanie Romero, CVM SCPA
- 651) "Well, art to me is very special. I recently have been going through a rough time with being stressed out and too upset to go to school and honestly sometimes I mainly look forward to going to art class. Whenever I feel pressured or just upset I either grab my ipad or notebook and just draw! It makes me feel extremely relaxed and without art, I would have a rough time with my life. So Art really helped me move forward and now I draw many things that I made on my own! This is why without Art I don't know what I would do." - Sarah
- 652) "The brush lightly swiping across the canvas. The smile on my face because of art. Art has been all to me, without art I wouldn't be much. I started to begin drawing when I was in kindergarten, when I was painting a picture, and then my teacher said to me, "Wow Shirlyn that is a good painting," I thought about it "Really " So I began to increase my art skills, and here I'm from all the effort and practice. I still have a lot to learn about art, big things, and little things.
Art for me begins with one color. White. To become a color, you have to create and form a color that fits you. That is for me how art is. And from all the colors that you make create a piece of Art." - Shirlyn Huang, 7th grade
- 653) "The arts are important because I want to be an engineer or an architect when I grow up. I want to draw detailed drawings of what I want to build. I also like to draw things from star wars and other sci fi series." CVM Student

- 654) “Art is very important to me in every way. Why? Well, its important because it’s a part of who I am, without it I wouldn’t ever know what I’m really good at. Art lets me enter my mine and lets me get in touch with anything that is possible with my imagination. I wouldn’t have ever gotten the skills without the support of my family.” - Reyna A Perez
- 655) “The arts are important to me because I want to become a game designer and I believe this art class will help me become one. Also because it is my passion I love art when I was young even though I wasn't good at it I still did art everyday. Lastly the arts are important to me because it’s another reason why I go to school. I’ve been working on a painting for it feels like forever I now made a promise to myself to finish my painting and show it to my mom because I want her to be proud. My mom always working so she never gets to see the awards I get or the performance I did when I was young but with art I can take it home and show it to her.”

THANK YOU MS.STEWART FOR HELPING MY PASSION IN ART DEVELOP!!!!!!!

- 656) “The arts are important to me because it has always been my passion. Since I was young I have always dreamt on being a great artist. Now that I'm in middle school, I am glad of being in the SCPA program being taught by my amazing teacher Ms. Stewart. Being in the SCPA program is the best thing ever, you learn many interesting things you may not be able to learn in any other school. While my time in middle school I have been motivated by art and how I know I am becoming a better artist each day. During these one in a half years I have been learning many artistic skills from how to sketch to how to paint. Thanks Ms. Stewart and the Chula Vista Middle School SCPA program for this great opportunity to learn art.”
- 657) “Art is important to me because art helps me mix new different kinds of colors and it's helping me become a better artist in life. It also helps me concentrate on my art skills every day in my life to get better at coloring. It's important to me because it's going to help me in life draw better and color better when I am sketching something that interests me.” - Fernando Ivan Arechiga, CVM
- 658) “For me the Arts are important because it helps me express myself by painting and drawing and every day I look forward to art and my art teacher is very very nice and her name is Ms. Stewart she helps me deal with my paintings and she corrects me and I am just proud to be in her art class. Also I learned art when my sister joined Ms. Stewart's art class and my sister started showing me all the stuff that Ms. Stewart showed her and then I decided to be in her art class and the schools art class. Also I thought that it would be kind of weird but now when ever I go to her art class I really enjoy being in her art class and she really inspires me to do the right thing and now that i have been going to the art class it makes me happy. My name is Alana Lee and I am in 7th grade also I am from CVM.”
- 659) “Arts and crafts is important to me because it teaches me how to draw and do projects. Something that I enjoy is art is that some of my friends are in art. Another thing that is cool about art is that we do all kinds of art like, painting, regular drawing, coloring, etc.” - Sincerely, Manuel Rodriguez
- 660) “The Arts are important to me because it gives me an opportunity to express myself through music. It's also important to me because I can make my family proud without being athletically talented. Band has given me many amazing experiences and so many amazing opportunities.” – Mya Sulog
- 661) “The Arts are very important to me because they allow me to express myself regularly at school. After a long day, it's nice to be able to relax in band, without having to take notes or do other school activities. Not to mention, it is very fun!” – Nicholas Burgos
- 662) “To me, the arts have always been a way of coming to peace with myself and the world around me. Through music and art, I've been able to find solace from the stress of studying, tests, and other aspects of personal life. Being in Choir gives me something to look forward to every day, and I love seeing how happy other VAPA classes make the students. The arts are a chance for us to explore who we are at our core, and they introduce us to new ways to express ourselves, which is so important for personal growth. I've learned a lot about myself from being in Choir; because of that, I feel like a totally different and better person than who I was in freshman year, and it's an experience I'll carry with me throughout my life.” Jazmin Oliver (Olympian High School, Jennifer Opdahl)
- 663) “The arts are important to me because I find it as a way to escape any problems I have or anything that I am going through. I have always found it easier to express my emotions, whether its frustration or joy, though singing

or writing. The arts have also helped me connect to people who share similar interests with me. Without the arts, I would have never met some people who I have grown to love.” – Juliana De Leon

- 664) “To me the VAPA classes are places where artistic students can harness their talents in a way that wont be possible any where else. By cutting more money from them people are destroying creativity and without creativity the world will not be able to progress and we will just sit and complain about how awful it is with no one to know what to do about it.” – Dinah Grantham
- 665) “Arts are fundamental to each individual. They help to intergrate mind, body, and spirit. For instance, at Sweetwater High School one of the arts that are provided for students are dance; Ballet Folkorico. For me this class is extremely important because it helps develop skills. It’s been two years since my enrollment and I have seen many changes in myself. It has helped me be independent and more critical within my goals and aspiration in school, community and house life.” – Dania Villa
- 666) “Music is a way to expand a persons mind and a wonderful way to be instantly involved in a community. More than this, its an escape outlet.” – Myles Alonzo
- 667) “As this district has continued to push more towards a standardized test based curriculum, I feel that they have started to ignore vapa classes and others that center around the arts. To me, this is a grave mistake, as I see these classes as offering something completely unique, offering us the chance to dive into a class that puts an emphasis of our creativity and our ability to do something that isn’t based around either English or math. Classes like photography or art allow us to both develop and appreciate an ability that would have normally gone without notice. By doing so, we as students experience a creative freedom that few other classes offer. We are also able see the world in a different light, using our newly gained artistic abilities to add another layer to our character and to our mindset. Setting these classes aside and ignoring them is a mistake, cheating many students from artistically experimenting or discovering a new talent or hobby. I just wanted to say that vapa classes are an incredible asset that should continue to grow and be an important part of high school.” - Sincerely, Mauricio Contreras, Otay Ranch High school.
- 668) “The arts are well a way of expression something people can share with others and show off their talent. Art makes us creative innovative think differently, makes us see artistic perspectives in situations it benefits us as a person. Art is not just a class it is a way of life for some people. For me art is important because it develops my mind and teaches me new skills that may be useful in the real world. Thank you for reading.” Jesus Cardoso
- 669) “Arts are important to me because it is the way I can express myself. Singing and dancing are ways I can release all my pain and happiness. I also love how art has meaning to it. A certain type of painting or music has a deeper meaning.” – Gresia Zamora
- 670) “Before I entered high school I was never involved in any extracurricular activities. Then, I joined band my freshman year. At this moment I found a second family that I loved and an activity I enjoy with a passion. I’ve come to realize that, if it weren’t for band, I wouldn’t have embraced the person that I am. As a bonus, I get to perform with all the people I care for.” – Zaid Vidaca
- 671) “I’ve been involved in band for five years and have learned so much. Music is something that cuts across racial, cultural, social, educational, and economic barriers and enhances cultural appreciation and awareness. They are an opportunity to experience processes from beginning to end. Art develops both independence and collaboration.” - Naraly Lopez
- 672) “Hi my name is Roman. I am a junior at Otay Ranch High School. I have taken computer art, art beginning, and now I'm taking photography. Art is important to me because it expresses myself better than other classes. I learned many skills like how to hold a brush when painting, how to do many things on the computer, and how to take pictures. I developed many skills for my future. It gets me closer with everyone and it is a great experience in school. In photography, I learned to use the camera correctly to take nice pictures so in the future I can take great pictures for great memories. When taking art, I learned in problems there is more than one solution. It helped me a lot in all of my classes. This is why I like taking visual and performing arts.”
- 673) “Arts are important to me because that is one way I can express myself such as the way I think and feel. I can collaborate with other students and help each other out. It's a part of humanity to want and need to express those

things. I like painting, sculpting, building, singing, dancing, and photography.” - Christian S. Lopez, Otay Ranch High School

- 674) “Orchestra is important to me because I like to learn to play instruments. I like to learn about music. I also get to meet new friends. Most of all I like playing my instrument and learning from it.” – Elvia Noel
- 675) “Art is important to me because is a way to express myself. I enjoy the sound that different instruments make. They make me feel different in a positive way. Art/music brings joy to my life.” Ana gonzalez
- 676) “Why are the arts important to me? To all of us? Well, in my opinion, the arts are the true language of mankind. Through them, we are able to communicate what we can't express with words. The arts are our soul and without them, we would lose our humanity and we would become literally automatons.” – Alejandro Orozco
- 677) “The arts are important to me because, the arts help me build up confidence, focus and the arts improve my academic skills. Specifically music can help me build up these useful characteristics to me help in real life situations. The art of music can help me build up confidence because music requires confidence for big audience performances such as field shows or festivals, confidence can be helpful in a real life situation like when I apply for a job because I would need confidence to prove that I'm the right person for the job. Another characteristic why music is important to me is because it helps me build focus, focus is needed for difficult pieces because it requires focus to be able to play the music and watch the conductor at the same time and also to watch for signs in the music such as a rest or a forte. The last reason that music arts are important to me is that music helps me improve my academic skills. Music helps me improve my academics because when music is learned ,and memorized it helps the part of the brain that memorizes to grow stronger and be able to memorize more things and uses the focus that is needed for class and the confidence that is needed to be successful in any subject. In other words music is my life and a lot of other people's life too many people devote their careers to this art music helps me relieve stress and emotions that no other person place or thing can achieve music is not just an art it's a lifestyle.” Elian Fernandez
- 678) “The Arts are important to me because it showed me new life experiences that I wouldn't have made on my own. For example, I wouldn't have ever gone to a competition involving a group of strangers that would later be my friends. Average high school students don't go through these kinds of events. In doing, so making the band members unique and making us stand out from the rest. So if you want to be part of something bigger than you, join your high school band and stand out from the rest.” – Isaias Sotelo, Band
- 679) “For as long as I can remember, music has been my life; listening to music, playing music, and making music. I started playing guitar and piano around fourth or fifth grade; I play trombone for my school's band, and I play violin and viola for their orchestra. I used to be lazy, irresponsible, and I could never imagine a future for myself; the tables turned when I started playing music. Music has liberated me from a lonely and destructive life, music is my release from everything that hurts and destroys me, and music allows me to deal with my problems in a positive way. Some people self harm, and some people get high or drunk; I music. I don't know where my passion for music comes from, since no one else in my family did music, but music is a language and lifestyle that I aspire to learn and follow for the rest of my life.” – Michael Grimsley
- 680) “Art is an educational source of individual creativity, not necessarily touching conventional academics but utterly the process of capability skills. The teaching of art, whether it's drawing, music, dance or etcetera has the potential to overpower all educational standards. To be successful does not mean you have to be an A+ student. You don't have to read to do music, you don't have to be the brightest at math to draw, and you don't have to be thin to move your hips. Personally art in general is the only intelligence that surpasses most of my academic standards, whereas it is both pleasing and very influential as well. Art is an implication to span a successful future for the sake of entertaining beauty. It also coincides with freedom of speech, though with the freedom being an individual's expression hence, art is a significance.” - Kaaihue, Rachelle
- 681) “Many individuals over the years have asked me, “Why are you doing music? That sounds like a waste of time,” or “Is there any practical uses for band/orchestra/choir?” Sometimes these questions infuriate me because they, along with most of the world, do not understand how music positively affects young students both intellectually and spiritually. For me, music is my stress therapy when I am worrying about school and my future, it also helps greatly with leadership skills that I continue to utilize often in classroom settings. If it weren't for orchestra and band, I do not believe I would have gotten straight A's last semester nor an overall weighted GPA of 4.19. Most of the person

I have become today has either come from the Arts itself or the amazing friends I have accumulated through the years with different music groups and that is why the Arts are really important to me. “ - Jennifer Harrison

- 682) “Art is important to me because its my escape route and its one of the best ways to express ourselves. Plus it’s very fun to do and learn about. I don’t know what my life would be like without art and I’m pretty sure many others think the same way.” – Marina Mendoza
- 683) “Art is important to me because I get to feel free, and I get to express myself in my art and that is why I like it.” - Tyra Wright
- 684) “Art is important to me in many ways. One way art is important is how art teaches you different colors and different kinds of art. Art is also important because art teaches you how paintings have different moods and what it expresses.” – Matthew Camacho
- 685) “Art is important because you can express your feelings. It is also important because it is really fun to do and if it wasn't because of art we wouldn't have movies or video games.” – Santiago Sanchez
- 686) “Art is important to me because it lets me have fun it lets me enjoy my day. I wait almost all day because it lets me have my time, like my peace time. The reason why is because it's art being created by me and my hands. Also experiencing that it has been made by a time period or someone that made the work long ago. It is so wonderful to see what people did with their life and how they decided to live it. This is why art is great and important to me.” – Alexis Araiza
- 687) “Art is important to me because it can help us get scholarships to great collages. Also if you take art through the high school and middle school you will have experience from taking art in the past, so that way when you get to collage you will already know some stuff about art. Finally because I think it's fun getting to learn new ways on how to paint, color, and draw.” – Jasmine Rosales-Vazquez
- 688) “Art is important to me because it is a way to express my self with colors. And art to me was just making pictures but after a semester I learned that there is so much to art, like how to make hard drawings easy and also learn new ways to do art. And there is art everywhere we look. That is why art is important to me.” – Alex Alcalá
- 689) “Art is important to me because its really inspirational, sometimes people who make art includes feelings to it . Also you can picture the art in real life if it’s demonstrating what actually happens in our lives. This is some of the things that are inspirational to me to keep loving art!” - Jade Avalos (Montgomery Middle School)
- 690) “Art is important to me and everyone because art lets us be creative.” – Pablo T.
- 691) “Art is important to me because we can see how creative other people are, and during art we can learn different techniques to use. During art we also learn the different steps of how people make cartoons or how they draw famous art and what they think of during the process.” – Alex Sigala
- 692) “My name is Juliana and art is important to me because it is very fun and I’ve always liked to draw and paint when I was little. I am very happy that I have art because I love painting and mixing colors and not knowing what color your going to get. This class has taught me a lot like what colors you have to mix to make a certain color and lots of other things.”
- 693) “My name is Rachel Loren Hopkins, the name of my art teacher is Ms. Abigail Serafin and I attend Olympian High School. To me, art is important because this elective can help students achieve success academically. I had learned from my teacher that the best way to learn is to activate both sides of your brain. Unfortunately, students only focus on the left side of their brain in science and math classes. Studying, practicing art and problem solving in art class will help reactivate the right side of your brain. For instance, students would be able to draw what they are seeing rather than the left side of their brain telling them to draw what they think they are seeing.”
- 694) “The arts are not just an extracurricular activity, it's a part of life, its a way to express yourself and express your emotions. Without the arts there would be no creativity.” – Maya Carrillo
- 695) “The arts have made me who I am today. Music has given me a voice, a place in which I feel I belong, a home. And putting that together with others makes it all worth it. The arts are not just subjects you can study, it's a way of

life and a silent bond among others around the world, a powerful connecting force that changes lives for the better.” – Anonymous music lover

- 696) “As soon as I began attending Castle Park High School I was in the music program, more specifically orchestra and our hard working Trojan Brigade. I utilize color guard and my violin as outlets when life isn't going as well as you'd hope. I continually look forward to practice and while I'm there nothing else matters, I just focus on making every toss perfect, every angle precise, and every movement flawless. This is why the arts are important to me because even when life isn't going anywhere near perfect I always have my escape. This escape requires tons of work but in the end it's worth it and keeps pulling me back in on account that without it I couldn't survive.” – Helena Luna
- 697) “The arts help me get through troubles I may have. They help me express myself. They are my companion in life. Arts are not only my passion but they are now a part of me.” – JoAna Dirilo
- 698) “The arts are important to me because it is a language that all people speak. No matter the race, gender, social economic status, sexual orientation, anything, art is a language that is transcended through the mind, spirit, and body. Art gives flavor to the bland monotony of life, and provides motivation for people across the world. Keeping the arts present in the school system likely may improve the overall standard of education in the United States, as many children who are taught the arts at a young age have scientifically been proven to earn better grades and have higher cognitive abilities. For these reasons and many more, the arts undeniably should be introduced more in general education across America, and talked about more of as a whole.” -Christian A. Lopez from Otay Ranch High school
- 699) “The arts are important to me because they are something that make my life more exciting. I believe art is a form of expressing yourself. Art is important to me because I think that it can show who we are.” – Tessa Juarez
- 700) “Music is important to me because ever since I was younger, I have always loved music, my mom also encouraged the arts (I've always loved drawing too), and I always used to watch musicals and such. Ever since I was younger (like kinder/first grade), I had my sights on violins (and more of the classical instruments), and always longed to play one for years. But unfortunately, my mom couldn't find any classes and my elementary school didn't have music (they were kinda boring). But music and this class are very important to me because I'm finally becoming a musician.” - Patchouli (Hilltop Middle)
- 701) “For me, music is the most important thing in the world. Music could make us feel something while playing an instrument, or by listening. The sound it makes could be played in many different music genres. Beautiful and soft, to intense and scary. And for me, I enjoy playing any kind of music genre. Every time I play with my orchestra and band group, I listen to them. To guide me instead of counting very long rests. Also, it's fun to play an instrument. When I was a beginner learning how to play the cello, it was really fun playing around trying to produce some notes even though they weren't in tuned. And I learned by attending to OPUS in my elementary school only for two years. Then, I had another year in Hilltop Middle school and I'm already in my fourth. By the way, I play the cello and flute And I hope I can keep learning and playing many many more instruments.” - Jakeline Moreno
- 702) “As a student of the Sweetwater High School district I think it's important for me to voice my thoughts on the VAPA classes offered by the district. I'm part of a photography class and a guitar class at my school and I believe both of those classes are crucial to my development. VAPA classes are so important because they allow me to express myself in ways academic classes don't allow me to. They allow me to expand my imagination beyond the classroom walls and I think that is something every student should be a part of. Not only are VAPA classes good for the intellectual development of a student but as well they increase a student's chances of getting accepted into a good college because it demonstrates diversity in their interests. Thank you for your time.” - Melissa Lizarraga, Otay Ranch High School
- 703) “I am a student that's had the opportunity to be part of several elective classes that focus on the development of artistic skills. It has been through these classes that I've discovered the profound importance of art as an element that composes important aspects of our everyday lives. Art allows people to discover the beauty that lies in simple as well as complex things. It is through art that people are able to share their thoughts, emotions, and experiences in different manners that make it possible to connect with other people. Art can be a form of escapism for many people, as it requires deep concentration, careful organization, and most importantly, practice. Art has taught me the value of dedication and the importance of diligence if we wish to be successful artists. VAPA classes are a necessity for students to develop their intellectual minds.” Thank you for your time, Angelina Garcia, ORHS

- 704) "Music is so important to me because it help me feel emotion and so full of live when I listen to and play. It also helped me improve in talent and educational skills and realized the meaning to true music." - Jennifer L.
- 705) "Dear board members, Hello, my name is Carolina Hernandez, I am a student at Hilltop Middle School. I have been involved in music my whole life. My whole family has lots of instruments, and is somehow involved with music in many ways. I have managed to learn new things about music everyday. I am very grateful to all of you for supporting our music program. Music changed my life for the better. Music is an opportunity for me, like scholarships and I would be able to write that I played the cello on my college application. I love music because it can be played in so many different ways. I love the sounds the instruments make when they are all put together, in check. Thank you, because of all of you this is possible. I have met many people whose music is their life. My music is a way for me to let loose and have fun."
- 706) "I think music is important to me because it inspires my creativity and I can express that creativity by playing music. I love music and hear it at least once a day, and that's a reason I got into music because I love it so much. Music has made a big impact on my life so I want my school and any other school that has any type of music classes to keep those classes." – Ana from Hilltop Middle School
- 707) "Dear board members, Hello, my name is Karla Roman and I have been playing my violin for around 5 years. I love playing the violin because it is an amazing instrument and it has made my life brighter. I have so much fun playing because I absolutely love music. I love the feeling that classical music gives me. It makes me calm, happy, and forget about the rest of the world. I hope that children in many schools get the opportunity to play an instrument because it has given me many chances that I wouldn't have gotten if I hadn't joined OPUS. I have been in OPUS since the third grade. I remember when I started playing my violin at my elementary. I have so many good memories. I would just like to say that being in music has given me more skills like teamwork, being a good listener, and learning how to be responsible. Also, I met almost all of my friends through music. They are really great people that I probably wouldn't have met without being in OPUS. That is another example of how music has given me many opportunities in life. To add on to the opportunity topic, playing my violin raises my chances of going to college. I am really planning on playing my violin for the rest of my life. It has been a life-changing experience to be in orchestras. Thank you so much for your time and I hope that many people get the same opportunities that I have gotten through my instrument." -Sincerely, Karla Roman, Hilltop Middle School
- 708) "I like music because I get to play with my family. Music is just fun and I have stuck with music for four years and I intend to stick with it. Music is just something I like to do." Annie Dickson, Hilltop Middle School
- 709) "You could say music is my security blanket, playing music let's you play based on how you feel. Pouring all of your emotions into music, someone can already tell how you feel. Without music in my life I would forget how much music means to me. Before I joined music, life was boring however today I play so many music pieces! Today I play with an amazing group of students who love music as much as me, although I love music more. I like learning and playing music, I never noticed how much music can affect three whole years of my life (that's how long I've been playing). Every moment I spend, music will be on the top of my mind!" - Jackie Hernandez at Hilltop Middle
- 710) "Hello my name is Mariagracia I am 12 years old and I have been playing for 5 years. Music is very important to me because of how it changed my life. It has changed my life in a way that nobody would ever do. It has made me feel like i do something productive everyday. I also love Ms. Bruce she is very cheerful and I have learned a lot. It has given me many opportunities in life. I have never given up and it always gives me a little push to always keep going. I have had the greatest years of my life. I play the violin and would love to learn many more instruments. Music has given me many chances and will give me to go to college. Music always clams me down. I love the feeling of playing and the calmness of the classic music and how everyday we get to try different types of music. My favorite class is music. Even though I have to stay late in school for music I love it because it's music. I am also in opus and SDYS because it's in my whole week. Monday thru Thursday I have 7th period and on Fridays I have opus trio. I also have Sunday rehearsal of SDYS and then I have private classes. It has taught me things like being responsible, teamwork and taking care of my instrument. I hope that lots of kids get the opportunities to play lots of instruments." - Mariagracia Ortiz, Hilltop Middle School
- 711) "As an active member in many Visual and Performing arts at school, I do believe that keeping the arts in schools are important. Whether it be dancing, singing, or acting, each form of the arts are ways for students to express their feelings. Being in arts programs can allow one to be themselves freely and to certain people, their whole

lives revolve around this art form. When you're involved in the arts, it is a great way to step out of your comfort zone, try new things, and surprise yourself in how well you actually do. In addition to that, it is a way to meet new people and make life long memories with life long friends. With all these positive outcomes of having arts in schools, why would anyone want it to be removed? I do believe that the arts program should remain intact in schools.” – Thalia Bendorf

- 712) “I believe the education our teachers provide for us students is far more than just a career prep for our first job. They challenge us to develop life long skills such as analytical thinking, clarity in written and spoken expression, collaboration, and creativity. These skills can all be developed through the arts and are valuable in any career. The arts also provide learners with non-academic benefits such as promoting self-esteem, motivation, aesthetic awareness, and cultural exposure.” – Anonymous
- 713) “The arts are important to have in a school as an option for many reasons. Most kids aren't made out for the usual extracurricular activities such as sports to teach them life lessons. It's too tough, kids aren't coordinated, and to some uninteresting. Arts can be the "sport" in their life. Arts usually don't require much gifted talents to start with as most high school students in an art program haven't done it for their whole life. People start out on a very similar and equal platform. These arts, given the right teacher, can also teach life lessons just as efficient and equal to the sports in an environment comfortable enough for any student to learn. These, among many are the reasons why the arts are so important.” – Joey B.
- 714) “The VAPA program and the arts are most important to me because they help me meet new people and we are all a family. The arts help me and other people with mental illnesses like social anxiety.” – Anonymous Singer
- 715) “The arts are important for many reasons. It gives students and people all over to express their ideas, feelings, and statements about anything from nature related to politically related. the arts should be encouraged more because they can build creativity skills and thought process skills from it. Personally being an an-mature freehand sketch artist, I've learned that with art you become more open minded from it and you can also find ideas anywhere at anytime. The arts are important as well because they can show the different cultures of the world and how that type of society has been through history up to current times. Art is important because it can convey about a million different messages in different ways from dancing, to painting, to drawing and using oil pastels, and sculpting. To photography and writing as well as probably the biggest for of art since the dawn of man, music. Art is so important because with out it none of these beautiful things that have collected under this category would exist today and the world would be plain. Art is the primary and secondary colors of the world.” - Caitlyn McClelland
- 716) “Entering the world of music has brought nothing but benefits to my life...” - Jonathan Daffer
- 717) “The arts are important to me because it is like an escape from reality. During the few minutes that I am singing a song, all of my problems and worries seem to fade away. Singing brings me into a world where I feel unstoppable and free.” – Jennifer Smart
- 718) “The arts allow people to express themselves in a variety of ways and can become a person's passion. Speaking from experience, the arts also allow people to connect and build relationships from sharing a common interest. Joining drama was one of the best decisions I've ever made: I have made so many great friends and I had found something I loved. I had found something that had given me confidence in myself. When I first began middle school, I only had one friend and had some trouble talking to others. I ended up becoming part of the school play, and I managed to open up and meet other people. These people are now some of my closest friends, and it's all because I took part in a performance. Now theatre has become a major part of my life, and it gives me something to look forward to every day.” -Sofia D'Alessio, 10th grade, Drama Major
- 719) “Music has taught me things I can't learn in a classroom. They teach me how to be myself and all about the things I love.” – Bb Bennett
- 720) “In school, we spend the majority of the time learning and studying material we have no intention of pursuing as a career. Many students bear with the vigorous courses and stress daily over the next exam they'll have. Art, is an escape and stress reliever to one's health. I always look forward to utilizing my imagination and artistic skill for creating art. No one ever says “ Oh no, you're doing art wrong ” because it's what appeals to the artist and to the people who see an artist's work. When you reflect on an image, you have a different effect than that of your friend. Therefore, the arts are important because it allows people to be stress free and their self.” – Danielle Rodriguez

- 721) “This is Kristen Abels. Art is important to me because it helps me express myself. It also makes me an individual and it is something that can't be taken away. Art is also a very important part of our history so art matters!!!”
- 722) “Art matters to many of us because it’s a way of people expressing their thoughts feelings & imagination. Art can be a daily activity or someones favorite thing to do. Art matters!” – Alexa Gutierrez
- 723) “Art matters because it shows the creativity of the person. It also gives someone an alternative way to express themselves if they have no one to talk to. Its a more interesting way to show your views on political and personal matters.” -Sophia Marking
- 724) “Getting students exposed to a Performing Arts class gets students engaged in a subject that they are interested in. Those students who may be shy actually feel comfortable in that class. These classes bring out the best in students and represent the school as a whole.” - Best Regards, Jacob Norton
- 725) “Art classes are important to high school students because as young teens we are all trying to express ourselves and find out who we are. Art classes in high school help teens express ourselves and help develop a new perspective in life.” – Sammy Rivera
- 726) “I enjoy arts like band because they give me things to do after school that I have fun with. Also, it gives you chances to go to places you may have never seen before.” – Brandon Kish
- 727) “The arts are important to me because it's a stress reliever. Not only as a credit for graduation, but an extra class to improve our knowledge of how to read, write, and sing music.” – Christian Feliciano
- 728) “Good morning. I am a junior from Olympian High School. The arts are important to me because it gives me an opportunity to escape from the reality we call life. I could spend hours engaged in playing music and feel calmed and relieved right after. It is a way for me to relieve stress whenever necessary. The arts, specifically music, allows me to express feelings into the music I play. Learning the arts in school gives me an opportunity to enhance my skills and AIDS in my development as a person. The teachers who teach the arts motivate and encourage me to appreciate different pieces of music and gives me a different perspective not only on how I view pieces of art but also on how I view life.” – Abigail Zaratan
- 729) “The arts are very important to me. I had a very short lived musical background as a child, and entering high school I wasn't aware of what to expect in a musical program. But when I joined the Olympian High Four-String "Quatroclasi" Orchestra, I entered a place with kindhearted, intelligent, and interesting people. They taught me well in how to play the viola, how to relearn notes and clefs, how to hold a bow correctly, how to actually play the instrument. I constantly looked forward to my daily 40 to 50 minutes of playing in a group of people who wanted me around them, not for who I am, or for what I could do, but for what we could achieve as a group. And what we had to achieve so that we made sweet music together, instead of fumbling over each other like so many unorganized orchestras I've seen before.

I joined the orchestra last year, learned to play the viola as best I could, and met very kind and funny people. I even ended up dating one of the cellists. I am faithfully playing viola again this year and am the president of the beginning orchestra class, which was only established this year, and have worked concessions at almost every concert and event we have had since my joining orchestra. I plan to play cello in the beginning orchestra and viola in the intermediate and advanced class next year, my senior year, while also taking AP Music Theory. The orchestra here has given me a chance to grow as a person while also being part of a community of ever changing teens themselves. The arts programs as a whole have had a major influence on not just my life, but the lives of others around me.

I have a great deal of friends from the Olympian band, which has many different programs that I still haven't wrapped my head around. All the people in the band are kind, funny, enthusiastic, and surprisingly mostly Asian.

The drama department has so many people in its program, it really astounds me. I have met so many people who take on different roles as stage crew, and actors, or makeup artists and costume designers. So many of them are... Well... They're where they need to be... Honestly a lot of them are over dramatic or just dramatic in general, but the ones who aren't are always enthusiastic, and have an appreciation for their roles, especially stage crew people.

The art program at our school has kind of turned into a joke. People only take it if they really love art, which usually they end up in AP Art History for, while others just take it because they need it as they're VAPA credit, instead of learning a "difficult" instrument or being a member of drama.

The choir program has pretty much been always directly connected to the orchestra program, seeing as how they're even in the same classroom, only at different times of the day. The people in that class are really good at singing, and much like the orchestra, have their own little prospering community full of kind and interesting and skilled people.

The mariachi became kind of a myth, people didn't really know whether or not they were still around. The program isn't as big as it could be, and I honestly don't know much about it, but they have excelled at performing at concerts when they do appear.

Finally, the dance program has always performed at assemblies and several concerts. They are very skilled at choreographing their dance routines and rarely mess up, which is very interesting to see, because they're all so skilled at dancing and are still so young.

As you can see, I have had a great deal of interactions for the short three years I have been here, and have developed very strongly and unbiased dossiers on all of these different programs. I very much hope this report helps you with whatever goal you are trying to achieve, and that the VAPA programs can get more funding if that is the end game. There are many programs that are in need of and deserve a great deal of expansion, so please, do your best to achieve something that can help us.

Sincerely,

Olympian High School Junior,
And Viola player,
Ryan MacMaster

- 730) "The arts are important to me because music has literally changed my life as person. I've been in band for 6 years now and in choir for a year now. Music changes people lives for the better and it should be recognized more often because there are some students who don't know about the music program and about the arts in general which is sad." – D'metria Benson
- 731) "The arts are essential to me because it offers a different way of expression for me and also offers a different way of thinking. I am someone who is dominated by math and science. Thus I often am very serious. However, the arts give me a chance to loosen up and enjoy my surroundings. They provide an opportunity to lift stress off my chest and showcase it to the world." - Ocean Zhou
- 732) "The arts (concert and marching band especially) are important to me because it is a unique skill set, and a place where a diverse yet like-minded set of students can learn music, socialize, express themselves, and grow as students and people." - JEQ
- 733) "The arts are important to me because it is a way to express your feeling. For example in peoples art you are usually able to see what mood they are in. Also by the show of colors you can be expressing your feeling." – Janessa Vicenty
- 734) "The arts are important to me because the it lets us be creative in many ways. The arts lets us explore new and bizzare ideas of self expression. We also learn new techniques and methods of doing the actions we normally do. The arts are exiting to be in and as a result, I believe the arts are important." – Roberto Yano
- 735) "The arts are important to me because through arts I can express myself. With photographs that you take and with art drawings or paintings you make you are able to express what it is that you are feeling without the use of words. Art is also something that I enjoy doing when I am bored I either take cool photographs or draw. Arts are definitely important to me but they are just something I do when I have nothing else to do I'm not looking to get any further education in them. Arts are amazing because they are a way to know how people are feeling without having to ask people how they are feeling." – Marcos Saade

- 736) "I believe that the arts are important to me for numerous reasons. Even though some individuals think that the arts do not seem to be a subject to be taught or educated on, I most definitely believe that they are the most important thing to learn about. It is not just the teaching of arts but it is a way to express emotions, talents, and oneself in general, to which they are unable to express themselves in other ways. To me personally I value them because I am someone who loves it and agrees that they are just as of value as anything else being taught. Most of the things that we see in society today are shown through artistic talents. It promotes happiness and that is the most important thing." – Ally Schafer
- 737) "The arts are important to me because they give me and others a way to express myself/themselves. It also created sort of a stress reliever from the more difficult classes in the school day." – Ally Payne
- 738) "Art is important to me because it is a way to express yourself. When someone is taking a picture or drawing, we see the artist's perspective on his or hers piece. When creating art there isn't any limitations, so the possibilities are endless. Although not everyone has the same taste in art, I think that is what brings diversity in art. Everyone see the world from a different perspective." – Akira Cox
- 739) "The arts have allowed me to find family I can be myself around and enjoy doing so. I don't find that anywhere else." – Lucia Gonzalez
- 740) "Music, fundamentally, is cooperative and highly technical; a trait common of team-based sports. Day in and day out, young musicians (some valedictorians and salutatorians of their class, others leaders of their youth groups, many just struggling through their AP classes) are producing lyrical music, often along the caliber of a paid professional. Music, as competitive and as storied as any professional sport, is not valued as highly as your average high school football team." - Jaren Ibali
- 741) "My name is Rafael Banda I go to Otay Ranch High School and I am in the 11th grade. The arts are important to me because I feel the arts people enjoy represents the kind of person they are in everyday life its sort of like an identity. Art is many things to many people for some its a job others a hobby but to some its their way of life and all kinds of arts are in every choice they make and every moment of their lives. To me art is in my every day life the music I like the shows I watch and the work I do is influenced or is a form of art. Some works of arts have become so famous that they have been kept well known for over hundreds of years. I see so many nice works of art in my 6th period photography class in the projects I see my class mates create."
- 742) "The arts are important to me because I believe that everyone is a little artistic. Taking an art class at school may benefit you or it may not but if it does it is sure to give you a different outlook on life. Personally I can't draw at all, though I am captivated by certain pieces of work. I like taking photos though because to me it is capturing the world in a unique way that no one else notices until you show them. This is why the arts are important to me." – Michael L.
- 743) "The reason the arts are important to me because I have always loved the arts. I wasn't confident in myself around the beginning of 7th grade, this was also when I joined drama. From this point in that class even though I wasn't always confident in myself that class really let me feel special, unique, and different. Now I have differently grown to love myself through the use of finding my creative side through writing, drawing, singing, and acting. All of this is something that probably wouldn't have happened without the arts being included in class activities." - Joie Vera.
- 744) "I always had a passion for music and art, however, without enough access to music education in my elementary school I was not able to explore my talent earlier. Even as I started to attend my high school I was unaware of the music program because of the lack of promotion and once again I missed an opportunity to learn about music. Luckily I can join choir on my last year of high school. I realized that music is what defines me and what makes me comfortable among my peers. Without it I would not able to be the independent and patient person I am. It is not just great memories that I gained from music, I also learned how to communicate with others, how to be creative, and how to work with a team. I would not be the person I am without music." – Jessica Kuang
- 745) "The reason why the arts are important to me is because it relieves the stress from my other classes. Another reason is that I enjoy playing and learning music from different time periods." – Anonymous
- 746) "Having art as an elective at school is important to me because I have the capability of expressing myself in a sense that I cannot do in any other classes. In art is where one can freely expand their minds to the most creative

of desires they could possibly have. Coming into art this year I had the mentality that I just wanted to get this credit over with so I could graduate however, being apart of this class has helped me build the confidence to be who I am and not be afraid to share with others what the right side of my brain is full of. Essentially, the arts are significant to me because I can be any type of artist I want to be rather than in other classes, stick to a strict guideline of how my papers or projects should be done. Art has helped students, and me personally, to not be scared to show others what I am capable of doing with my imagination and thoughts. All in all, the arts are important to me because it lets me be who I want to be and have confidence in the artwork I create.” - Savannah Espinosa, Olympian High School

- 747) “I sing and dance but I'm better at singing than dance. I love to sing, singing is my passion. Its important to me because my dream is to get into a performing art school. I want to pursue a singing career in the future. Not only do I want to sing but I want to dance. Dancing is also important to me because I love to perform just like singing. These two things is something I want to continue later on in life.” – Brenda Verduzco
- 748) “I don't think I'm able to put an exact definition on what art means to me. Art could literally be anything from doodles in math class to a lump of dig leftovers on the sidewalk. Every single piece of art affects everybody in some way. And those who deny it are lying. Art is more than pretty pictures painted on a canvas, it's more than cute doodles in class, it's more than a turd on the sidewalk. Personally, I'm not very good at most things, so the fact that art could be anything has really pushed me to be open minded and has helped me grow to be a better person than I could've been.” - Zoe Duffer-11th Grade
- 749) “Well, I think art is so important, and a great gift and talent. It allows me to create a world of imaginative forms and figures, and it allows me to focus my mind on my creations. Without art we wouldn't exist. Even the human body is art to me. Art is everything, and everywhere.” - Adrian Ramirez Walls-12th Grade
- 750) “Art lets me tell a story. Not just any story; my story. Art allows me to express unsaid words, my past, my hopes, my dreams. It allows me to express issues that I've never quite dealt with. It is my escape; my high. Art is important to me because without it I'd have no sanctuary to escape my inner demons. Art is what saves me.” - Cassandra Ceron-12th Grade
- 751) “Art is important to me because it is a way that I can express my actions, feelings, and thoughts in a way that I don't express much around people. To me art isn't beautiful, or ugly; to me it's mesmerizing. It can give you an idea of what the artist may be feeling throughout the piece. Without art, I'd be a gloomy version of myself. Before I didn't know what art was like until I learned, so now art is my passion, my way of life. I tend to sketch or actually take pictures of things that seem abnormal when I'm feeling down.” - Sandra Escobar-10th Grade
- 752) “The arts are important because without the arts we'd live in a black & white world. The arts help express our feelings and share our thoughts. It allows my inner thoughts to be let out through creativity. Art relieves stress letting your mind out on paper and thinking of nothing else but your drawing. Art helps me to be me.” - Katherine Carnacite-11th Grade
- 753) “Art is important because it helps to express individual creativity and perspective. To express one's self through arts, there are many ways like painting, sculpting and more mediums that will draw the individuals ideas, emotions, and many more.” Gerry Anthony Cruz-12th Grade
- 754) “Art is important to me because it helps me express my feelings in different ways, shapes and sizes. It's flexible. It's important for people to take art at least one art class, because I believe until then, their creativity is held back, or limited.” - Kayla Alayon-11th Grade
- 755) “The arts are important to me because it opens up a realm of creativity. The world and surroundings give me a sense of all types of arts and how they are used in significant ways. Opportunities in future careers to everyday activities are built because of the importance of art to me.” - Alayna Abellana-11th Grade
- 756) “The arts are important because of many reasons. Art really helps reveal stress and anger and all other types of emotions. It's relaxing, calming, and very fun to do if you are bored. I've gotten as many things off my chest because of art, and it's just a great skill you have and it makes me happy. That's why the arts are important.” - Nathan Close-9th Grade

- 757) “Performing arts is vital to our school because it allows students to express themselves, specifically by dancing. Students are able to enjoy, learn, improve, and excel in Ballet Folklorico through practicing with classmates every period and sometimes after school. It allows students to prepare for future commitments.” - Vanessa Vargas
- 758) “The arts are important to me, because they give me the chance to develop skills and learn things I would not usually learn in normal classes. In my drama class specifically, I improved my communication and presenting skills. I would be much more shy and not as out there if it weren't for my amazing fifth period drama teacher! Yay for the arts!” – Kimberly Morfin
- 759) “The arts are important to me because it helps kids develop new skills and ways to express their talent and passion in ways they couldn't do before. I'm very happy that I joined the band program because I made friends and had experiences I would have never have gotten if I didn't join this wonderful program.” - Anonymous
- 760) “They are languages that all people speak that cut across racial, cultural, social, educational and economic barriers and enhance cultural appreciation and awareness.
They are symbol systems as important as letters and numbers.
They integrate mind, body and spirit.
They provide opportunities for self-expression, bringing the inner world into the outer world of concrete reality.
They offer the avenue to "flow states" and peak experiences.
They create a seamless connection between motivation, instruction, assessment and practical application-leading to deep understanding.
They are an opportunity to experience processes from beginning to end.
For me this is important.” - Angel Morales Alvarado
- 761) “The arts are important to me because I love music and singing. Singing has always been one of my hobbies and favorite thing to do since I was 4 years old. And it has always been my dream to become a professional singer, famous singer. Music and other art programs are important in school because students become academically successful with a wider variety of knowledge. Schools should not rely on core subjects and testing to make a child ready for life once they are out of school. Music is very important to some people and the arts mean a lot to me.” – Gia Fazzone
- 762) “The arts are important because it gives us a new way to look at the world. A deeper and more creative view is what art classes open up to us. Also, art education gives students opportunities for a successful and creative future.” - Jessica Balais, Eastlake High School
- 763) “The arts are important to me because it is a A-G requirement class, which means you need that class to graduate. Its also a nice class to relax but also learn some new stuff that would get us a job.” - Javier Arreola from Eastlake High School
- 764) “Art classes in high school are important to me because they allow a break from logical thinking. Although classes such as math and science are vital to our education, they can be tiring on the brain. Art has no restrictions and has no single right answer.” - Velvet Camarce, Eastlake High School
- 765) “Art matters and needs to stay at all high schools. Art classes help students find themselves in many different ways. Art also helps people find what they like and what they think is cool. How are students suppose to find what they like to do and who they are if they are forced to just do classes such as Math and English. There could be artists waiting to be discovered at school. Art classes are also academic. They help us find out our style that can further advance us in English and help us think differently. In my opinion art matters and should stay in all schools.” – Danielle Caliger
- 766) “Art classes are important to be because it's an opportunity to collaborate with others like you would in real life. It's helped me express and identify myself as well. Lastly it's an A-G requirement and I'm planning to attend a 4 year university.” – Estefania Furlong
- 767) “Art makes life a little more beautiful, without it the world would be a boring place. Art helps develop human's brains in a way that no other subject can. It is form of self expression that can not be fulfilled in any other way and we need it to gather strength in our country if we want to be well rounded nation.” – Isabella Molina

- 768) “Art matters to me because it is a way for students to use different parts of their brain. The right side it used for creativity and the typical math and English classes do not always give students that opportunity. A well rounded person is able to communicate with others that may be different and help those that need a help with a specific skill. Yearbook should be considered an art credit because we mainly focus on the photographs and writing. These are considered art to me. Thank you!” – Harper Moulton
- 769) “Art classes matter because it's a way to express our passions and emotions in colors and drawings. People should be able to show their talents and creativity to inspire others in many ways. There are many famous artists and painters and without them we wouldn't know and see the beautiful and passions behind each painting, dance , and etc. also I believe yearbook should be considered an a-g requirement because it contains all these.” – Alyssa Carrillo
- 770) “Art matters to our school because it allows students and individuals to express their ideas and beliefs abstractly through paintings & drawings. It also, at times, may provide relief to students who are stressed with other vigorous classes. Art funding should not be cut so that these activities can still be in place for future students.” – Troy Adame
- “Its substantial.” – Preston Plotke
- 771) “Art classes matter because I need to keep my mental sanity. If you really believe that suppressing our individuality and creativity even more than you already are, you're crazy. Art is the only class that actually develops human beings further than the robots we're becoming.” – Johnny Abundez
- 772) “Arts matter in Eastlake High because it shows the amount of talent each student possess that could in away change the world. We want to see things that are different and unique so art is the thing to have to show those matters and specialties.” – Julio Sanchez
- 773) “Art class is important because we want to enjoy what we like to do. It is also important because it is a a-g requirement.” – Jannett
- 774) “Art should be kept in public schools because it lets students express their creativity and themselves. It is also a great alternative to those students who are not interested in sports. It is evidenced with some type of vava involved class, it helps students score higher on SAT and ACT scores as well as keep students from doing irrelevant actions (drinking, doing drugs, etc.)” – Julia Bautista
- 775) “I really like it is fun. The teacher keeps the class entertained and we are always ready to get our education. And art matters because it's something we can use in the future. And it keeps the student interested and mind thinking because of the art.” – Elissa Gomez
- 776) “We should have art classes because it helps to inspire young artists, like me, and allows them to grow creatively. I am able to express myself at school and that helps me have an emotional outlet. Incorporating art classes help develop the right side of the brain rather than just the left side, which is used for mathematical skills.” – Claire Dennis
- 777) “Hi my name is Delia, I think photo is important to me because it this is my only class where I'm able to express my individuality. Without this class I won't be able to graduate.” – Delia M.
- 778) “Hello my name is Baylie Lazio I think we should continue to have art classes because we are able to express ourselves in a creative matter. We are able to work the right side of our brain as well as our left side which is being worked throughout the day through all of the required classes so it is able to give a balanced learning while incorporating enjoyment.”
- 779) “Hi my name is Joshua, I believe that arts matters and we should continue the arts program because it's a class where students can express themselves.”
- 780) “Hi my name is Jessica Grippo and I believe Eastlake High school should continue their art classes for their students because some students have passion for their art like how athletes are passionate about their sports. It could inspire them for future possibilities in their lives.”

- 781) “Art is how we as human can express ourselves and expressing ourselves especially as teenagers is what keeps up sane. If you take away art classes not only will students lack self goodness but goodness in other educational classes for their mental state would be dysfunctional.” – Ricardo G.
- 782) “The arts is important because it's fun. I know what a word but it truly it fun. According to psychology studies everyone needs a little bit of fun in their everyday life. If you were to take the arts away you would be causing more stress to students who already get no sleep. Most high educations are not going through our everyday schedule and don't know how their new ideas like common core and now considering taking away the arts are affecting us. We go to school 8 hours a day and have around 3-5 hours of homework and even that can vary depending on what classes you take. All this new curriculum being thrown at us like a curve ball is harder than you think. Having common core and adding it my junior year of high school makes no sense. I have learned math a certain way for 10 years and changing it now does not make sense but it would differ if you start it from kindergarten. This is just one of the many reasons why the arts are necessary not just at school but in our daily lives. People who come from lower income may come to this class as a stress reliever. Personally this class is my stress reliever. I need a class where I can take a deep breath. If you were to take away the arts you are taking away the little fun and many high school students are provided with. It will not only hurt us mentally but it would hurt us physically too. For future references I think it's a good idea to ask students about the new curriculum you are bringing to us, not the teachers, principal, superintendent, not even the President of the United States, but the students in our district about how they would feel if something new is added or taken away from us in our everyday life. Think of us as your own children, would you want your own child to have no voice in the changes you make? I mean we were given the right for the freedom of speech for a reason right?” - Kiana Valdivieso, Eastlake High School
- 783) “We should keep the art program because I am the VAPA editor for newspaper and without our art programs, I will have nothing to put in my page and they will cut my section from the newspaper. I write about all of our art programs, and try to give to it as I can.” – Alyssa Arballo
- 784) “Hi my name is Juan, I think art is important because it helps kids express themselves. It is also a requirement in the A-G requirement in order to go to college.”
- 785) “Art is a beautiful concept. The meaning of art consists of creativity and feeling through emotion. The way art should be expressed. Every true artist knows the importance of a work of art to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.” - Makena Cash, Eastlake High School
- 786) “Where has all the creativity gone in the past 4 years of high school? Art, a class that I took for only a year, was only an elective, and only a handful of seniors right now are still interested in it. Art is a way to express ourselves, and create things outside of school. It's not just a waste of time or space, it's a way to exercise a different part of the brain--a way to use our creative skills to bring more to the table at school.” – Katherine V.
- 787) “Art classes are important because they give you a chance to find yourself. You don't fully understand how creative you are until you take an art class where you can express yourself.” – Mark Church
- 788) “Art classes matter because it lets students express themselves and it opens the door for students to have an opportunity to find something that they love to do. Also, many classes are considered art, but Yearbook is not one of them. Yearbook takes a lot of artistic ability and hard work and should be recognized as a fine art.” - Tristyn Acasio
- 789) “The arts are important to me because they help inspire creativity and important techniques that may help people follow their dream careers in the future. Art classes are expensive, and many students would deeply appreciate first-hand learning how to properly learn to do "art". Students in school, children in general make the future. Without the arts, many students will loose interest and passion in what they want to do, within the arts careers, later in life.” – Christian Smith
- 790) “Self-expression. The main reason of why art is important to me is self-expression. I feel like when ever we get assigned to do a project in class it gets my creative juices flowing. Creativity is key in art to me and when ever it's time do a project I get so creativity and make something so simple, turn to something so imaginative and it just blows my mind away every time I finish an artwork. All in all, the arts are important to me because I get to find my self creativity and see what I can do with a paper and pencil.” – Kalah Bateman

- 791) "I have been enrolled in SCPA visual arts since seventh grade. Now, a Senior at Chula Vista High School, I have experienced all that the program of arts has offered to me: two years of VAPA Art Summer Camp, two years of AP Studio Art, endless weeks of stage work in which we design and create the theatrical sets. I am so proud of my accomplishments, and am in awe of the accomplishments of the people around me. To have been exposed to so many different art forms- dance, music, theater, etc., I have been irreversibly altered in my view of the world. I look around me and I now interpret my surroundings as an unfinished canvas- or rather, a mural. We all have our creativity to contribute to this world, and as we grow, the mural grows with us. We learn from those working next to us, and they learn from those next to them. We are an expanding world, becoming more and more exquisite as we refine and change, for art, any form of art, is an essential mode of communication, and thus the heart of a community." - Ramona Demotto
- 792) "Our school need the arts in order to expand our creativity. When we expand our creativity we find new solutions to solving things or seeing something big in something small. People do not understand art because they have not seen how much goes into art. Me personally, I find art helpful in my life, I find things more beautiful in life and I can think more outside the box in situations. I enjoy art and think it should stay in Eastlake Middle." – Mycah Lopez
- 793) "I think it is important to have the arts in school because they help people develop techniques to help expand their creativeness, self-expression, and inspiration towards the arts. It might also help influence people to try a variety of activities to see whether they have strength in the class or a weakness. And as a result of the arts people are able to find appreciation towards the arts. This is why I believe it is important for the school (Eastlake Middle) to continue the arts." – Paulina Gonzalez
- 794) "Art. Music. Performing arts. All those forms of art and many more have been in history for centuries and I don't think we should get rid of them now. Art is a get away, it's relaxing it's someone's future profession. I strongly believe that the arts should not be cut out of school. I believe this because art can be very important to students. For example, myself, I love music. Music is my passion, music keeps me going, it helps me focus it makes me happy. I grew up with arts all around me. My father is a graffiti artist, he's amazing, he's my role model. I think his art is brilliant. He has had companies from around the world sponsor him. My mother does have a regular desk job but is a fantastic artist and has a license for cutting hair. My mother's boyfriend drives a trash truck but is also a DJ. My uncle is a cheerleading coach and he's very successful. I am surrounded by art and music and performing arts everyday and every second of my life. I believe that some students can strive and become amazing through the arts. And if those are taken out, some generations may just fail. Art makes children creative, it works our mind. And that is why I believe the arts are very much important and shouldn't be taken out of schools." – Alyanna Loredó
- 795) "I think it's important to have the arts in school because you are learning new things. It is exciting because it is important to have a talent in you. The arts that you have can be your career job. Art is creativity, you can focus on what you are doing, techniques, explore new things. Art is inspirational." – Monica Marquez
- 796) "The reason why the arts are important to me is because they are fun and teens now wouldn't like to have classes that are not enjoyable. Electives like art matter because you do get more credit as a student. Another reason why I think the arts are important is because they help you be more creative and you can learn more about art and get way better at drawing." – Chandler Nader
- 797) "I think that it is an essential to have arts such as orchestra, arts and crafts, choir/chorus, and dance at our districts middle and high schools because writing and reading all day can produce excessive stress and depression as well as boredom to students and teachers/administrators this can cause some kids to become rebellious towards schools and adults. Performing arts provide an experience that may change a students life for the better and this gives kids a break from working in a seat for several hours. Also these may improve a students chance in getting in one of these careers." – Katelyn Bennett
- 798) "Art has been important to me for as long as I can remember. When I was very young, I always would be fascinated by the little drawings of stick figures with crayons and the houses that were poorly colored in with markers. I grew up around a wonderful family that watched over me as continued to grow up. My biological father was never really in my life very often.. But I knew that I looked up to him. Until one day, he told me that he had never loved me and that I was a big mistake. I fell apart and my heart became cold as I heard those hurtful words fill my mind. I became distant with my family. My dad was always working hard and trying his best to keep a roof over my head and as well as my mother. My room was always my hiding place and my escape from the world. I

had started noticing that I was very unhappy with everything around me. I was being lazy, disrespectful, mean, rude, and distant. One day I found a quiz online to see if I had depression.. I answered honestly. I was in tears by the time I finished reading what the outcome was. I was indeed, severely depressed.

It had been months and months of becoming isolated and pushing people away from me. I started self harming almost every 3 hours of the day and every 30 minutes at night. I didn't know what to do with myself. I went to school with out even putting effort into my hair, face, and clothing. People began to notice at school; they began to laugh, say hurtful and untruthful things, and putting sticky notes and chain notes in my locker about how almost everyone wanted me to kill myself. I won't say everything that they called me because it's not necessary.

I tried to commit suicide more than 4 times and I self harmed for about 4 1/2 years.

My parents heard from the school that one of the teachers noticed blood dripping from my wrist when I returned to the classroom after going to the bathroom. She was concerned.. As well as my parents.

I went to a mental hospital for about a month and began taking anti depressants. I finally decided to promise myself that I would get better. I missed the old me that was always happy.

I was happy.. Finally and it's finally been a year of no self harming. I remembered that during my darkest times I would always draw, and sing, and put so much emotion in the drawings that I created. It helped me through everything. Art has so much power and emotion that is expressed differently by so many people. And the emotions from different people always change.

Art means the absolute world to me.”

- 799) “The arts are important to me because they allow me and teach me how to make memes. Meme making is one of my passions, and no, I'm not trying to be a clown here. People call me the dank meme master because I make the dankest memes in the school. However, I prefer to go by Master Memer. I thank all my previous art instructors as well as my current Digital Art teacher for granting me these tools to express my arts through meme making. All in all, the arts are important to me because they enable me to express myself through a myriad of ways, especially through meme making.” – Fernando
- 800) “I need the arts in my life so that I can listen to music whenever because music is very good. Without music life would be more boring. Without it there would be no famous songs that are made right now.” – Christian
- 801) “The arts are important to me for many different reasons. One reason is because paintings from famous artists inspire me, and when doing projects in art I like to look around my art classroom and my teacher has paintings like Starry Night, and I sometimes use the same color blendings as that painting. Another reason why art is important to me is because of the music. Sometimes music helps calm me down, or helps with stress, (because of homework). These are two reasons why art is important to me.” – Sophia
- 802) “The arts are important to me because it helps me explore my creativity. Arts such as dancing are inspirational to me and makes me really appreciate it. There are different arts to experiment with and can help you with your future career.” – Olivia
- 803) “The arts are important to me because our culture strives on art. Art is a way to express ones self or to show a meaning to something. Our lifestyle is based on art, like music, architecture, and portraits. This is why arts is important to me and others.” – Vince
- 804) “The arts are important to me because they make things look better. Like the new Star Wars movie, it wouldn't be as good if it didn't really care about the arts. The arts make school better, and not jut English, math, science, etc. It would just make it boring if we didn't have any. Some of the arts consist of graphic designing which interests me since me myself am skilled with Photoshop, and some other things like music, and acting. The arts make people day a whole lot better.” – Cedrick
- 805) “The arts are important to me because they make school more enjoyable. Without the arts school would be very boring and it would be hard to be motivated to go to school every morning.” – Brody Vlcek
- 806) “I need arts in my life because after world cultures for me it is exploring arts and it clears my mind off of academics and just have fun. Our school day need the arts in order to have your mind working for every class and

have so much fun. We get to explore these new things and be good at them with a teacher because at home people and I probably have sports and we don't have time, so that's why I think that it is important.” – Kyle Tibbett

- 807) “The arts are valuable to have in school because this allows students to express their inner creativity. The arts, such as visual arts, music, or dance, allows students to take a break from their usual classes such as history, science, English, etc. This allows students to self-express themselves in their own unique way; allowing us to explore ourselves and learn new techniques or talents that we never thought we could achieve. It may give us an idea of what we want for our future careers. The arts are inspirational. Exciting. Creative. The arts bring out our full potential and reach for the stars.” – Aaliyah Ringor
- 808) “I need the arts in my life because if we didn't we wouldn't be able to express ourself in music, drawing, painting, drama, or whatever. Some people can use this to get their minds off of people's problems either at school, at home or wherever they have problems. And if it's not cause of that then it's because they like to just explore. And when they explore it and like it. They can use it and take all the way till they die. It can be a career for them.” – Elizabeth Guerrero
- 809) “Arts are important to me because I love the creativity and the experience. I am no artist, I am extremely untalented in that department, however I do enjoy drawing, coloring, digital media, photography, and music and dance. I enjoy looking at other people's work and performances. I am taking my second year of an art class (photography the first year and digital media my second). I liked both classes, they are extremely interesting. I have always been fascinated by what people do to movies and video games to make them so life like and clear, and I appreciate and love it even more now because of my digital media class. I learned about photography, and a lot of the stuff I did not know was a huge part of. We used Photoshop and other programs to enhance our work and I thought that was really neat. I considered becoming a photographer because of the class, I was really interested, but at the same time that is not something I can see myself getting a nice paycheck for. These classes are important to me, I think I learned a lot, and I hope to learn even more.” – Kiyara Mitchell
- 810) “I think that it's important to have art class in school because, it is very fun and it works your brain and if your really good at it then you can make paintings that cost a fortune! Also, I think that art class is important because it's very interesting with what the type of stuff you do, such as making projects of only magazine papers, making piñatas, making your own currency, and many more! Those are some reasons why I think that art class is important in my school” – Jonathan Marquez
- 811) “The arts are important to me because it helps with your creative thinking. If you have a creative mind that will help you in life to get a job that you want. Lets say you wanted to get a job as a architect, you will need to have a creative mind when designing the perfect house needed to fulfill your job. Plus just the fact that it is exciting to look forward to on a day for school. This is why I think the arts are important, and they should keep it in the Sweetwater Union High School District system for many years.” – Jalon Benson
- 812) “I think it's important to have the arts in school because it gives the kids creativity and self express themselves. In art class there is different techniques and methods and historical facts. It also takes a lot of patience and focus. Band class gives kids to experiment a new talent they didn't know they have. So let me ask you again, why are the arts important to me.” – Aidan Hernandez
- 813) “I think it's important to have the arts in school because we can learn something new we be creativity and its also great for a career for the future.” – Alyssa Ruiz
- 814) “The arts are important to me and all students because they are a form of self expression. Students express themselves creatively through visual arts, music, dance, and theater. The arts teach them to be creative, and in arts classes they can learn new skills. As important as English and math are, the arts are also important to teach students about. Increased art classes in school help students get better at the arts, they can learn about arts history and they can explore new career options in artistic fields. Every school should have arts classes because they are an important part of the education of students like me.” – Sofia Roldan
- 815) “I think that the arts let people use their creativity and use it to do great things like dancing, painting, and other things that people do to express themselves.” – Alyssa Cisneros

- 816) "I think it's important to have arts in school because it helps kids or teens to express themselves with their own creativity and it could help them find a career in their life for example, an artist, a musician, a Spanish teacher, an Opera singer, etc. and like my teacher said, "It's similar to dress code it doesn't truly let you express your individuality." I know for a fact about that because when I was in 1st through 4th grade I had to wear collar shirts and jeans not really anything we could do and we were not even aloud to have two colors on anything we wore. But that is beside the point, I think we should have the arts because we can express our style and personality." – Madison Andrews
- 817) "The arts are important to me because it let's me get out of my comfort zone and be the person I am. It also gives kids a chance to meet new people who enjoy doing the same thing you do. Drama major." – Yazmin Pina
- 818) "The direct definition of art is "the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination." In this sense, anything can be an art so long as you put your heart into expressing yourself, whether it be singing through an instrument, creating entire realities from mere words; the arts are important because they define who we are as individuals. Anyone can art. Anyone can take anything they love doing and express them selves through it. You just have to will yourself to find the thing that captures you. To love what you're doing and to be proud of the product is an unbelievably amazing feeling. So go, find that thing, find yourself lost in something." – Hailey Maier
- 819) "The arts are important to me as it's not only a way to express myself and be in an environment with people that share the same passion and drive as I do; as where other class don't necessarily have the same capability. Those of us who participate in the arts agree to an invariable extent that they play an enormous role in our lives—exceed the limits and bounds of being "just another class". – Joseph Nool
- 820) "The arts are important to me because they are an outlet for creativity and expression. School is a stressful environment, and other types of recreational activities are not always able to distract me from the pressure to achieve high grades. The arts, especially music, lights up my life in a way sports and games can not." – Bisheshata Basnet
- 821) "The arts are important to me because they help me stay mentally stable and its fun." – Celeste
- 822) "The arts are important to me because personally, I think that it gives kids a chance to expand the creative side of themselves." – Natalia Hernandez
- 823) "The arts are important to me because I am very creative and arts are my way to use my creative. The arts are valuable because is part of the culture." – Diego Luna
- 824) "Art is important to me because its really interesting because when I came to this class I didn't know how to draw but then with time I started getting how to draw and many people like it." – Jose Angel
- 825) "The arts are important to me because I believe art is a way to express your personality or how you feel. I think its also great when you are going through a hard time. Drawing, playing an instrument, singing or anything really can help relieve stress. When I'm anxious about something I listen to music and color." – Jenelly Ysip
- 826) "I think it's important to have the arts in school because it can help students explore and be inspired in several things. The arts needs patience, focus and creativity in order to succeed which is why its good to teach young students these concepts so they can continue to use them in the future." – Caelan Slater
- 827) "The arts are important because students can have self-expression. Many students like the arts because they can show their creativity. The arts can help students use their creative minds and it might even help lead to a future career. Many students appreciate the arts. Students can explore the arts they think they would like." Lily Othon, ELM
- 828) "The arts are important to me because it helps me express myself. The arts are the main reason I like going to school without the arts school is just a bore to me. I plan on going to San Diego's performing arts school without arts that school wouldn't be a performing arts school." – Mya Anderson
- 829) "The arts are important to me because it expresses my feelings. Also, music, which is considered art, has helped me with my life. It is also fun to make art. I like to explore different types of art." – Zachary Navarro

- 830) “The arts are important to me because it really expresses who you are in art and you can be free and do what you want to do. Without art we will be down. It makes us happy and calms us down.” – Jackelin Garcia
- 831) “The arts are important to me because its keeps me calm after a long day in school” – Muhammad Al-Hamad
- 832) “The arts are important to me because it’s a good way for me and other students to express themselves. It also allows us to be creative and there is not many ways to be creative in other subjects. I feel that it is very important to be creative because if someone isn’t creative they are the same as any ordinary person.” – Brandon Haleen
- 833) “The arts are valuable because it lets people express their creativity into their art. Even if people say they cant do art are not good people get to like it because they get to do stuff in this class that they cant do in other classes and that is many things for example : self - expression , to be creative in any way that you would like, and to experiment with different color different shapes and that why art is important to me.” – Taylor Rodriguez
- 834) “The arts are important to me because it allows me to learn about things I have always enjoyed as a child. I enjoy being able to express myself in song and to foster my creativity. Finally, the arts help me to relax and learn to work in a team with other people to make a good experience for everyone.” – Kevin Co
- 835) “The arts are important to me because they're the one thing in school that allow me to express myself and make friends doing so. Colorguard has taught me what it means to find a family outside of the one I was born into. If not for the arts I would of never understood the meaning of self expression and dedicating yourself to working with others.” – Ayleen Maldonado
- 836) “To me, the arts are one of the best ways to express yourself creatively, especially in music and art. I also like to think that art and music can induce feelings into people that observe or listen to it. Being able to create wonderful music for people to enjoy or beautiful art for people to observe feels amazing if you get it right, and seeing people like what you create can be a great morale booster for yourself.” - Gregory Larson
- 837) “My name is Alejandro Alvarez. The arts are important to me because it has had many positive effects on my life. I learn a lot, meet new people, and enjoy myself everyday when I walk into band. The program means a lot to me and I'm glad that they have taught me these past two years.”
- 838) “Art has always been an important part of human history. Art allows people to express themselves in a way that is acceptable to society. It allows people to be creative and let their thoughts flow on whatever canvas they choose to utilize. Basically art makes people unique. It makes every single stand out using their own skills.” – Rona Tiglao
- 839) “The arts are a very important thing to me. I feel that the arts help students to express themselves and to show the creative side that everyone is born with. I was in drama last year and this class really helped me get out of my comfort zone and be confident. Having to go up on stage was scary for me but I then got comfortable and didn't mind expressing myself and being the character. Being given the opportunity to have the access to take a VAPA class was very fortunate and it helped me to grow as a person and discover my interests that I had never known or even thought about having.” - Taylor Lebahn
- 840) “The arts are important to me, because they give me new and different ways to express myself. Being allowed to express yourself artistically, gives you this kind of freeing feeling. Using the arts in order to express myself has been a big help in my life when going through different situations in my life. The arts are what help me to express myself in different and unique ways without caring what others may think about it. The arts give you this type of creative outlet, which everyone needs from time to time, to just let everything out. The arts also give you new ways to view thing in life, like not to take the little things for granted and always believe in yourself. Without the arts I don't know what I would do.” – Alyssa Phoenix
- 841) “The arts are important to me because I get to express my self how I want to. There is usually no right or wrong answer to when you are creating art, you are doing it as you choose how you like it. Art can show who are and what you want to say. You can interpret art in your own way, how you think it is. If you show a picture to an audience tell them to analyze it, every single person can look at it differently and that is what is so great because its just how you want it to be there is no direct rule of what art should be or look like.” – Ashley M.
- 842) “The arts are important to me because it allows students to express their creativity and it allows students to relax and learn about art to help reduce stress.” – Kaylee Vines

- 843) “The arts are important to me because they can help talented students get a start to where they could go or be. The arts also help express a students feelings in some way without anger or violence.” – Isaac Reyes
- 844) “The arts are important to me because they are enjoyable and fun and helps us imagine and be more creative. It also lets us experiment with colors and patters etc.” – Srah Al Bahar
- 845) “The arts are important to me because they are ways to express yourself. The type 2 types of art that I enjoy best are music and dance. The good thing about music is that good music never has an expiration date .I love dance because I get to express my self with movements.” – Arturo Davalos
- 846) “The arts are important to me because joules likes music. I like to dance to music and they makes be happy. I also like to draw birds and other things. I like to color my drawings. I like art it makes me happy.” – Joules Tan
- 847) “The arts are important to me because I think it lets kids express themselves in a different way. Arts help people express their emotions and let them create something
- 848) They didn’t think they could have created.” – Itzel Tejada
- 849) “I feel like art is important in schools because some kids express them selves through art. I’m not just talking about sketching and painting. I’m talking about band, dance, and tech classes. No one is trying to stop sports or trying to take budget cuts from sports. I know that lots of people like sport and that you can get scholarships from them. But not every schools quarterback goes into the NFL. I don’t think its fair.” – Holley Sanchez
- 850) “Any form of art is important to an education because it gives to students what they can not learn, passion. Being able to want to do something is key to success in any field. The arts forces students to look inside themselves into what their true passions are weather it be the arts or not.” – Gus
- 851) “Every time I set up for rehearsal, I set up for success. I set up to become a contributing, competent member of a cohesive unit rather than a lost soul, unaware of my purpose. The arts are important to me & so many others because we find our purpose in a healthy manner.” - Iliana Quintero, Band
- 852) “Having been in band for over 2.5 years (and counting), I have come to realize that the program I partake in on a daily basis really takes up a lot of my time. It may be inconvenient, but it really does encourage me to plan out other aspects of my life shaped around it.
- I have grown significantly as a musician over the time frame that I've been in the program at both Rancho Del Rey and Otay Ranch; I remember struggling to make a sound out of my instrument just a couple years ago to now, currently being the principal flutist of the district's Symphonic Band. I wish to continue to improve as a flute player and join the ranks of the professional world, and perseverance has taught me that the only way to get better is to keep practicing and doing what I love. Thank you for your time.” - ORHS Sophomore - Jia Wen Chen
- 853) “The arts are important to me, because they pose as a creative way to express myself. Creating something that comes directly from one's imagination is very rewarding. Not only do the arts allow one to communicate with others, but they allow one to communicate with oneself. The making of art can be achieved by anyone, which is why it is a universal language that should be embraced and brought up to be a skill and lifestyle.” - Alondra G-R., Otay Ranch High School
- 854) “Art is a way of self-expression. People can convey so many messages and feelings through art and connect with other people all around the world. Everyone can understand and interpret art in their own way regardless of language barriers. Art is an important world culture and tradition celebrated by many.” -Daniela Acevedo, Otay Ranch High School
- 855) “Why are the arts important to me? Many people ask me this question time and time again. And I always have the same answer. Music is my passion, it's a way to express myself either when I'm upset, happy, excited. It's my therapeutic method of dealing with my feelings when they have nowhere else to go. I love photography. It is my way of capturing memories in a different way. It's a big and adventures world so why not capture it and cherish that memory. It can also be my way of expressing my unique side. And last but not least acting. I love to act because I can act anyone I want to, and I'm good at it. I can express myself also in acting. It is also very calming. Without the arts, who knows how I would deal with myself.” - Ariella Brauer, Otay Ranch High School

- 856) “The arts are important to me because they help me express what I see in the world and how I view it without my words. I have a hard time saying things, so when I take pictures I can let people see how I feel and let them discern what I am feeling. I take pictures to show what I see and depending on my mood as to what I am looking for, this opens my mind in ways that are boggling to others. Art is the beauty in life that everyone can see but hasn't yet and that is what I like to do share moments with people.” - Jordan Baeza, Otay Ranch High School
- 857) “Visual and performing arts are important to me because I am in several of those. Photography is important because it teaches us to be more open about things. We capture the most beautiful moments in life that we treasure the most. Another performing arts that I am involved in is colorguard. I love being there because I socialize with everyone in colorguard, band, and drum line. We get to perform in front of a lot of people to show what we are capable of doing. It is also important to me because it is something I like to do in my extra time that I enjoy very much.” – Angel Herrera
- 858) “The arts are important to me because I've never known what it had truly meant to be happy until I had involved myself in it. The arts are there to look forward to in some of your darkest times and I am forever grateful that I have found happiness in something that wasn't temporary. The experience and emotion that I take from this program are memories that I will hold and treasure for a lifetime. It has given me an outlet that eases my mind from all the academic stress I have to overcome on a daily basis.” – Shela Perez
- 859) “The arts are important to me because "Earth" without "art" is just "Eh". yes. Life without the arts just means a life where only the necessary is done. Only just enough to sustain functionality. The arts are all the extra factors that out senses love. There is music, delicious tastes coming from master chefs, great works of literature, amazing photography or cinematography, painting, and sketching. None of these of course are needed but they all make life so much more interesting and value to life. Many of these arts tie whole cultures together and encourage bonding.” - Andrew Flores
- 860) “The arts are important to me because it allows me to have fun while learning how to play great music. Being in band helped me connect with other people and make strong bonds with them.” – Don Davis
- 861) “The arts are important to me because it allows creative expression. Whether its dance, art, drama, or music, it all gives a sense of freedom in a person's creativity. I use the arts to express what I am unable to with just speaking. When my shyness makes it impossible for me to say what I feel, I know I can rely on the arts to make it possible. The arts is important to me because it allows me to be the person I want to be.” – Danielle
- 862) “In school, we spend the majority of the time learning and studying material we have no intention of pursuing as a career. Many students bear with the vigorous courses and stress daily over the next exam they'll have. Art, is an escape and stress reliever to one's health. I always look forward to utilizing my imagination and artistic skill for creating art. No one ever says “ Oh no, you're doing art wrong ” because it's what appeals to the artist and to the people who see an artist's work. When you reflect on an image, you have a different effect than that of your friend. Therefore, the arts are important because it allows people to be stress free and their self.” – Danielle Rodriguez
- 863) “Arts is important because it helps me express myself and helps me through stuff. It also allows me to make friends and connect with people. Most of the friends I have I've met through the arts program.”
- 864) “The arts allow me to express myself and help me through a lot of stuff. Music always cheers me up. It has also helped me make a lot of friends.”
- 865) “The Arts can mean different things to people in different ways. It's like in an orchestra, it's not about what you hear, to some people it is what you feel. These people put their emotions into the music because it is important to them in different ways. This goes to all kinds of arts (music, dance, visual art and acting). So next time when you think about it ask yourself "Why are the arts important to me or other people?"
- 866) “The arts are important because they are forms of expression. A world without expression is a world without diversity, and without diversity, there wouldn't be happiness. The arts teach you values and skills that you can use for your work ethic in your other curricular subjects.”
- 867) “The arts are important to me because you can express feelings through arts. The arts also inspire people to do things. The arts also help you meet people and interact with them. Many people love the arts for different reasons,

but mainly it's because we can express things through musical arts, dancing arts, and all of the other types. Music is also passionate and can help us get through many things that happen in our lives.”

- 868) “Arts let us express our inner self and open up our emotions unlike any way any other form of entertainment does. It opens our imagination and the world around us in an expressive format. It can be happy, sad, awe-inspiring, or just a way to unwind after a long day. There's so many types of arts and they all know how to open up the world in their own way. Art helps us escape the world's problems and just let us focus on the emotion we want it to focus on that's why art is important to me and for all of us.”
- 869) “The arts are important to me because it is my passion. At first I only joined band because I don't know what else to join, but I have grown to love it. Basically every teenager loves listening to music, but instead of just listening to music, I enjoy creating it.”
- 870) “The arts in general are important to everyone because the arts define who you are and how you were raised. Arts are more than painting and music it is also culinary, athletics and visual arts. Art is specified by something someone does that takes practice hard work and dedication. If you are a recognized artist, your life probably revolves around your talent. Frequently your talent is a product of your environment. If you were raised by people who are artistic or taught the arts to you, you will most likely adopt their artistic talents. A talent shows how you grew up and what you were surrounded by. Learning any talent gives you an identity of who you are and what you are capable of.”
- 871) “The arts have helped me to through depression and suicidal thoughts. I went to the arts as a coping mechanism. They have taught me how to accept myself and how to accept others. I isolated myself from society for a long time, until I started doing music. Music allows me to be myself and it has helped me push aside my depression and suicidal thoughts.”
- 872) “The arts are important to be because it reflects who we are. It reveals our personality through music. Art allows us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time. Arts allow people to enter a new world using their imagination (like reading). It also allows people to create their own worlds and also change the world. I think that the most important reasons of why art is important is because it changes a person.”
- 873) “The arts are important to me because not only is it really amazing to create your own music rather than just listen, you get to show your friends and family your achievement. The arts are very fun as well, I have made many great friends through the arts. The arts make school more enjoyable. Some people may have a hard time in school whether it be a bully, a difficult or boring subject or problems at home, the arts give you a place to escape and get away from the bullies and join the arts family. School attendance also goes up with the arts because to go to these classes you have to go to school. The arts are a wonderful program that everyone should at least try and everyone will benefit from.”
- 874) “The arts are important to me because they make me feel happy. They put me in a different environment than those of the normal everyday classes. Its easier for me to connect with other people and make friends. The way I express myself in the arts is different than I express myself in any other class.”
- 875) “The reason I like the arts is that music sounds very good when playing it with my class. My past experiences with musical arts was very enjoyable. I have also have performed multiple skits with my twin brother and friends, so that is why the arts are important to me.”
- 876) “I think that arts is fun. The reason I think is fun is because you are challenged to learn the notes. And you get to learn a new think rather than just learning more math. I also like arts because we have a great teacher that teach us very good.”
- 877) “The arts are important to me because it gives people including myself self expression it gives you a way to show your feeling through musical thought.”
- 878) “The arts are important to me and have been my entire life... A couple years ago, I had been going through serious depression and issues wanting to go on.. And, even now, I feel that when I pick up a pencil or make myself a watercolor paradise, my worries fade away. When I pick up my guitar or sax, my harsh feelings drain out easier than an entire river of tears.. Singing just brings me to a new level, where I can write my feelings and put them to song as a way to "let it out" at last...”

- 879) "I feel like the arts are important to me because of giving joy to people and myself, as well as trying new things. I feel that with the more things I learn how to do, the more I will be able to teach or show when I'm older."
- 880) "I love dancing! I've been dancing for 11 years and I always end up smiling and thanking my teachers. I love dance because when the music starts playing I express myself really good. Which is much easier than talking. I also love it cause it has responsibility in some cases but I still enjoy it 100%."
- 881) "The arts are important to me because they have been there for me since I was born. I love music, I remember when 3 years old I used to grab a pencil and put it as a microphone and sing. When my family is eating dinner, I drum my fingers on the tabletop and make a beat. Acting is fun too! I just love to trick my parents. I love the arts because it lets me express my feelings, and just like Justice Goff said it gives me a chance to "let it all out."
- 882) "I like the arts because I myself love music and playing. It brings out a new side of you and its fun not just a thing to put a side its a beautiful thing."
- 883) "The arts are important to me because it helps you find talent and because it can help you in the future."
- 884) "The arts are important to me and the world, because we all use our talents and ideas to make something beautiful in the world. Why it is important to me is because it shows who I am and what I am as a person."
- 885) "Arts are important to me because I can find my talent and be me, also I like performing and being on stage."
- 886) "The reason the arts is important to me and many others is it gives people a chance to express themselves. Many people are passionate about dancing or singing etc. and it may also give them an escape. Those are the reasons why the arts are important to me."
- 887) "The arts is important to me because it helps me find my best talents and interests. It makes me feel inspired to do more great stuff that can change the world."
- 888) "The arts are important to me because I come from a large family of artist and musicians (quite the financial efficiency I may say (sarcasm) and I feel like I should take part in that."
- 889) "The arts are important to me because I like the fact that anyone can produce it. You don't have to speak the same language to understand the meaning or the significance of a drawing or a painting. I also like the fact that you don't always have to understand a song, or a painting to find it beautiful. I think its important to express yourself, and you can do that through art, a song, a dance, or acting, because any type of art is an outlet that you can use for your emotions. Its important because a picture or a song can impact anyone's life, you just have to be willing to express your emotions."
- 890) "The arts are important to me because of what they provoke in me, and how it speaks to me, telling me to create. Music can inspire me to do things that I could never do without it, and it can make me feel, take me to another world. Visual art can inspire me to create stories, think deeply, and see the world through a clearer lens. Dance and acting can bring a story into existence, inspire more creation, or simply bring about curious thought in my mind. The arts in general appear to make me want to create once or as I observe them, bring about thoughts that I would never spark on my own, and bring about vivid landscapes, films, or stories in my head which I can put to paper or monitor screen."
- 891) "The arts are important to me because I find it amazing how you don't even sometimes need words to tell a story. Sometimes all you need is a dance or a melody."
- 892) "The arts are important to me, as a student in 2016, because they are a relaxing change of pace from the rigor of my other classes. It is a great feeling to walk into a class without worrying about assignments, tests, or quizzes."- Peyton Hightower, Eastlake High School
- 893) "Art is important to me, Alexa Rodriguez, because it gives me a break from reality and gives me the ability to express my individuality. Some people aren't very talented in other subjects but excel in art areas. Art should be preserved because it can also reach out to those in need in a spiritual way." – Alexa Rodriguez

- 894) "I think that having an art class allows me to have a period where I can relax and express myself. Also it gives me an opportunity to learn new content from our diverse culture." Andres Mendoza, Eastlake High School.
- 895) "The arts are important to me because I get to meet people who share my interests. Even though I'm not too creative I've always been interested in photography and its nice to know others are too. I've met some really interesting people in my class and I'm really glad I've had this opportunity." - Gianni Hinkle, EastLake High school
- 896) "The art education is important to enhance creativity. Art is a way for an individual to freely express themselves. Art allows more "out of the box" thinking; which can help with other curriculums and activities." - Michelle Carrasco (Eastlake High School)
- 897) "Taking an art is very important.it is very important because it teaches us certain things we would not know how to do without taking art. Art helps me be more creative with my life." -Caleb Villasenor, Eastlake high school
- 898) "We need art class because it shows me something that I can really use in the future." – Anthony
- 899) "Visual and Performing Arts creates opportunitites for students to express themselves. They also can appreciate the arts while finding inspiration and gaining perspective." – Autumn Hernandez
- 900) "Art helps us learn styles of famous artists. We learn about artists to get inspiration to be able to express ourselves in new ways." – Nia Kendal, Eastlake High
- 901) "Arts are important to me because they allow you to express your individuality and take a break from the hectic and rigorous curriculum that we follow as students. Through arts you can also meet other who have the same interests as you and use the tools you learn in art classes in real life." -Ashlyn Sao, Eastlake High School
- 902) "Art is important to me because I'm able to collaborate with other individuals and share our ideas together. It's a great way to release stress and clear our heads with all the other academic classes we take. Art is a way of life, without it, we would be a boring culture." – Vasni Vasquez
- 903) "This art class is important to me because we get to learn about other people's accomplishments. I could learn real-life skills that I'll actually use later on in my social/physical-skill-driven life. We get to apply and use the creative side of our brain to relieve stress." – Hiram Zarate
- 904) "Photography is important to me because it lets us show how unique we are. It lets you explore the history of how art was discovered. Finally it lets us explore the creativity of others." – Larry Campbell
- 905) "Art is worthwhile and extremely important to me because it provides creative outlets for students to take away the stress and seriousness of "typical schooling" such as math and science. Creativity and freedom of expression create happiness in a lot of people. Classes like math, science, and English are important fundamentals in becoming a typically smart person, but art allows people to break free of typical restraints I'm schooling and become a more well rounded person." - Kali Bowden
- 906) "Art matters to me because it allows me to express myself. As a high school student, I believe it is important to see the world in a more abstract way than just Mathematics or English. Becoming an editor for our school's yearbook had taught me to be more focused, have more confidence in my work, and has introduced me to beautiful people. Art classes are more than important, they are vital." - Aaliyah Alexander
- 907) "Art matters because it creates a sense of an individual to every student. Art cannot be replaced on any measure. There is an element to art that corresponds with each academic course. And if we were being honest, which came first? Which was the first language? It was art. If we think about this, math is built on shapes and a creative process. Language (reading, writing, etc.) is based on sounds we make with our voices. Science is a study of the physical aspects around us. Art is in everything. ALSO yearbook should be counted as an A-G requirement." – Daniela Huerta
- 908) "Art class and yearbook is so important, and really opens everyone's eyes to be open minded. There isn't just one opinion and art allows people to express their own without being judged. To have this class at a time when we are developing our personalities is a really great opportunity to find what we are truly passionate about." (yearbook

should get an A-G requirement because creating a yearbook is a personal organic creation)-Lauren Turner
Eastlake High school

- 909) “Art matters to me because of what I get to express through it. I'm able to show my creativity when expressing my ideas and expressions. Yearbook should be an A-G requirement because I have learned, from taking this class, the art of creative writing and speaking out the important events at my school in a captivating and thought provoking way.” – Melanie Minas
- 910) Art classes are very important in an education because they allow students to get their creative juices flowing and express themselves in a whole new way. Students who are adamant of pursuing a career in art would not be able to receive the necessary skills and gain credit for their work if the classes were removed as an A-G course. One change I do recommend however, would be that yearbook would be counted as an A-G course (art class) because it involves tremendous creativity skills and hard work.” - Riley Toon
- 911) “I believe that art classes really matter in schools because they increase originality and opportunity to create something unique. Art has really been beneficial to my life as a high school student and makes me feel accomplished whenever I make original pages and art pieces. ALSO I strongly recommend making yearbook worth an art credit because we're an assembled body of students creating amazing memories for the rest of the school.” – Ivanna Benavides
- 912) “Art classes matter because they allow students to express themselves in new ways. Students are allowed to show their emotions and likes and dislikes for the world in unique ways. Yearbooks should be considered a A-G class because it's artistic and we do a lot of hard work in it.” – Michelle Guitard
- 913) “Art classes matter because it is a class that allows us to express ourselves. Cutting more funding is just going to have a more negative effect.” - Nick
P.S. Consider giving yearbook an art credit
- 914) “We should not cut art class funds because most students only come to school for this reason. We should promote art in students lives instead of only making it a choice. I think Yearbook should also meet an A-G requirement because it is very artistic and year bookers put so much work into the class if not a lot more work than any other class.” – Arielle Farrell
- 915) “Hello, my name is Julia Masias. Art is important to me because it allows me to get in touch with my inner creativity. Art class matters because it gives students a chance to express themselves. Without art many students would lose their ability to be creative and think outside of the box. Art helps us with critical thinking skills and without it we would be lost later on in the real world.” - Julia Masias, P.S. Yearbook should be considered as a A - G class.
- 916) “The arts are important to me due to its ability to convey global perspectives through pictures/paintings, etc. Arts are absolutely essential to students and considering the fact that I have taken art and photography, I am aware of the stress free aspect of it which further adds to my mindset on the importance.” - Miranda Diega, Eastlake High School
- 917) “Art should be kept in schools because it allows students to express themselves. Art is also a break from the everyday stress that your main classes put on you.” – Justin Westney
- 918) “Art is crucial to a students education because it keeps students well-rounded and stimulates the brain in ways other than critical thinking and problem solving. It allows students to have a creative outlet that cannot be found in subjects like math and history. And lastly, it gives students an opportunity to explore other interests and see what their potential is outside of typical subjects like math and English.” – Ruben Gutierrez
- 919) “Art is a way to expand my learning capacity in ways that aren't offered to me anywhere else. And to many people, it is an integral part of their careers.” – Ray Kim
- 920) “Roses are red
Violets are blue
Art is my life why won't you see that through
If you take the art away

You take away our creativity
We take photos to display how we see the world
I perform drama to express my feelings
Why would you take away our expression of creativity
To make more money?
To take away our happiness?
Why could you take it way.
Roses are red
violets are blue
Take away our art and we'll strike school."
- Elsa C.

- 921) "Art is extremely important because it gives students a way to express themselves. I need art classes to be creative. Art plays a big part in my life because it's an outlet to get away from the other classes." – Hugo Sanchez
- 922) "I believe art is important because it helps us express our emotions and ideas. Art influences and molds people's decisions on their careers. Another reason why is because it is part of the A-G course." – Danny Kim
- 923) "Hi my name is Adreyan and art is important to me because it can show people a new point of view on the worlds creativity. Without creativity there can't be creative thinkers who can express their inner being and personal thoughts. Without art creativity isn't possible and neither are creative minds."
- 924) "Hey my name is Jonah and I believe that art class is necessary for every school. Not only does it help me express myself in multiple ways but it helps me learn about different techniques to better my art in the future."
- 925) "Hi, my name is Paola and art is important to me because it builds creativity and it makes me a more realistic person. Art helps me express myself in an easier way. My feelings can be expressed without harming anyone."
- 926) "Hello my name is Giovanni, art matters because when school loses art classes, it turns in to a mechanical institution producing educated zombies lacking personality."
- 927) "I really enjoy the art classes and the variety that Eastlake High School offers. I have taken one every year of high school. I have always loved art and the teachers are very passionate about the topics. Having these classes have been very eye opening but also a relaxing time to sync into another world and express myself through another language. Please keep the art classes at this high school because I would love for other students to have the same opportunities I had by taking the art classes. -Miyuki McClellan
- 928) "My name is Hannah and art matters to me because it helps student express themselves as individuals. Art classes should be kept because I believe most students need art and love it."
- 929) "Hi, my name is Maria Davila and I believe arts are super important to our curriculum. Not only are they an outlet for expression, but they have also been proven to benefit the mental health of students. As part of the dance, orchestra, and photography programs here at Eastlake High School, I can honestly say being in these programs has made me a better person. Not only have I learned about the subjects in question, but I have also learned valuable life and leadership skills by being part of these programs. Without the arts, I wouldn't be the responsible college bound person I am today."
- 930) "Hi my name is November Kiahtipes and I think art is a vital part of a students education because it expands their minds and introduces them to alternative forms of expression. The academic aspect of school such as English and math teach a student how to succeed career wise but art teaches students how to succeed on a personal level. It teaches them things about themselves that they may have not otherwise understood."
- 931) "Art is important to me bc it MATTERS and wonderful to learn about MOPS!
It give students a chance to shine :-)" - JR Evangelista
- 932) "Hi, my name is Oriana Betancourt and I believe that photography and other art classes are important because they are classes that allow us to express ourselves. They also help relieve us of stress from our other classes that don't allow us to portray our own thoughts."

- 933) “Hi my name is Lauryn Esteban, I believe Eastlake High should continue to have art classes because it gives students an opportunity to express their creativity. Students should have the equal opportunity to express their individuality and passion through arts.”
- 934) “Art matters because it creates a sense of an individual to every student. Art cannot be replaced on any measure. There is an element to art that corresponds with each academic course. And if we were being honest, which came first? Which was the first language? It was art. If we think about this, math is built on shapes and a creative process. Language (reading, writing, etc.) is based on sounds we make with our voices. Science is a study of the physical aspects around us. Art is in everything.” – Daniela Huerta
- 935) “Art matters. Matter does art. Without art is no life. It is a way for people to fully express themselves through their unique ways.” Paris Delgado
- 936) “Hi, my name is Carlos Sanchez-Rojas and I attend Eastlake High School. Art matters because it develops an individual's creativeness. We don't want a boring society, we want a unique one.”
- 937) “As a high school student, art matters to me. It allows students to express themselves, and possibly escape the nightmares existing in their life. It's a positive outlet that should not be revoked from any individual attending school. Art allows students to learn as well, and also may give students hope for their future.” - Alyssa Terrado
- 938) “For some people art can provide a career that math and English cannot provide. For example music is a universal language. Therefore, foreign students who may not know English and music can be their savior. If the US education system forces students into a particular path then students cannot pursue what they enjoy.” – Anonymous
- 939) “Art is something that many people use to express themselves. It is something important that many people need in their lives.” – Savannah Siegfried
- 940) “Art matters because it helps people bring their creativity out. Art is a way to express yourself. Art is important to a lot of people.” – Kyle Alami
- 941) “Art matters because it gives creativity and inspiration to everyone's individuality. In my position, art is a scape goat to my stress and it relaxes me. Overall, art is entertainment and a separate sphere.” – Jeremy Corpuz
- 942) “Hello, my name is Joshua Mayo and I attend Eastlake High School. Art matters because it lets students develop their creativity and discover talent in subjects they otherwise wouldn't have found.”
- 943) “My name is Andres and I think art is important because The National Endowment for the Arts released a research report indicating several positive outcomes associated with high levels of arts exposure for youth of low socioeconomic status. According to a study led by James S. Catterall of four separate longitudinal studies, at-risk students who have access to the arts in or out of school appear to have better academic results, better workforce opportunities, and more civic engagement than at-risk students who do not.”
- 944) “Hello my name is Ayleen Gonzalez I go to EastLake high school and I believe art is an important curriculum in education. Society believes math and English is vastly more important than art, but I personally suggest schools to keep art classes. Art classes are not only a requirement, but it is important for students to keep their options open and keep a creative imagination in order to express themselves.”
- 945) “My name is Julia, and I think art classes should continue to be offered in schools because unlike other classes that students take, it allows us to use creativity in education. Also, not every student thrives in subjects such as math and English, and art classes can be a way to motivate students to go to and be excited to be in school. Art in schools also gives us opportunities to learn about creativity in new ways, such as film photography in my photography class.”
- 946) “Hi my name is Reinah and art is important to me because it is fun and relaxing compared to all the hard classes I'm taking. Without art, I would be buried in all busy work and it's a good stress reliever.”
- 947) “Hi my name is Sergio and art is important because it's the few times of the week where I can put myself into my school work.”

- 948) “Hi my name is Briggitt art matters because it shows inspiration and gives everyone a chance to show their own creativity. It shows people expressing their own art form.”
- 949) “I believe art matters because it expresses the emotions of people and helps us open our hearts more. Art matters because I believe it can change the whole world. Lastly, art matters because it gives the world color and feeling.”
– Aaron Medina
- 950) “Yo my name is Dane Downing and I think art matters in school to promote creativity and individuality. It's important to get into college and it's a stress free class that reduces anxiety.”
- 951) “Art matters because it allows us be creative and express ourselves in many ways. It also bring people together.”
– Luis
- 952) “Arts are important because they are languages that all people speak that cut across racial, cultural, social, educational, and economic barriers and enhance cultural appreciation and awareness. They are symbol systems as important as letters and numbers. They integrate mind, body, and spirit.” – Paola Quintero
- 953) “My name is Amanda Torres and I'm a senior at Eastlake and my favorite class I've ever taken is my photography class. Art is important to me and I continue to use my creativeness to help develop my school's yearbook. In high school students try to find meaning in their lives, I found my meaning through photography. Art classes are an important role in high school that shouldn't be rid of. Thank you for your consideration.”
- 954) “The arts education is important to me because it creates a hands on education rather than looking at textbooks and whiteboards all day. It also allows me to take a break from my hard classes and be creative with my assignments.” – Alyssa Rowean
- 955) “Art classes matter because it allows students to express the creativity that cannot be expressed through general academics such as Math or English. In some cases, students could realize some of their hidden artistic abilities, such as myself. It'd be great if Yearbook students could count for some A-G requirement as well, for there is a lot of hard work that goes into this class. Thank you!” – Ariadne Bernardo
- 956) “Art is an important curriculum at our school! It showcases talent, creativity, and the individual to express themselves through ways they didn't they could. At Eastlake High School we've proven to be accomplished and recognized for our amazing Visual and Arts Program as evidenced by our Dance Company, photography, Show Choir, Titan Regiment, and Show Choir. Yearbook should also become part of an A-G credit just like how Digital Media has become part of it.” – Alyanna Cayabyab
- 957) “First and foremost art matters to me because it requires social and initiative to work amongst. Classes such as digital media have been considered A-G requirement as of yearbook it should be considered an art because of the time well spent on editing photos and working around endless works of edited pages. Learning and implementing these skills into a requirement will allow us students to develop long beneficial life skills.” - Chantel Yousif, Eastlake High
- 958) “My name is Raquell Carson and I am apart of a photography class at Eastlake High School. I hear that the district may shut down classes that deal with the arts. From experience, I believe that that should not happen because art is a big concept of hope to those who may feel like they have nothing left in there lives. In times that I have struggled with living situations, I looked towards music and poetry for inspiration. I would appreciate if you did not remove anything that has to do with art.” – Raquell Carson
- 959) “Arts are important to me because it helped me develop a new passion for music. Since middle school I've been playing instruments and every year I try to lean a new instrument. So far, I've learned violin, piano, and the basics of guitar. Students can benefit from art classes because they learn new things everyday. Students learn the culture behind each instrument they learn to play. On a future term, the arts can lead you to better experiences in life such as a job or traveling.” – Francis Maya
- 960) “I like to play the guitar. My school gives me a program where I can transmit my passion through my instrument. I relieve all my stress and all I can thing about is the sound of the notes my strings emit.” -Jesus G.

- 961) “Music is important to me because it’s like a short vacation. It also helps with time management and organization. I also like to play the guitar. Some people can actually benefit from music by using it as a form of stress reliever. If guitar was taken away I don’t know what I would do.” – Xavier M.
- 962) “The arts are important to me because in the whole day we take serious classes and it stress and overwhelms us but in art classes I can relax, have fun and learn something new. Even without knowing it we gain many skills and abilities that can help us in the future.” – Antony Herrera
- 963) “Arts are important because you can get a break from all those other classes. Arts are also fun and you can learn communication skills that we can use in jobs or where ever else. Besides everyone likes to look at art or listen to guitar music.” – Cameron
- 964) “Music class has become a vital getaway for students nowadays. We’re all so attached to music as kids of our generation. Music is there when we look for a path to restoring our hearts, when they’ve been broken. Music is there when our friend aren’t It’s a part of us. The arts are our voice; our expression to the society in which we grow.” – Dante Covarrubias
- 965) “I like to paly the guitar, my school gives me a program to do what I like. Guitar class is really fun with my friends, their names are Enrique, Jorge, Chuy, and Chuy’s brother Chuyin. I would be mad and drop out of school, I won’t even come to school anymore if the district took away arts classes so don’t take away...” – Guillermo Muñoz
- 966) “I like to play the guitar. Arts are important because you can learn how to draw and play a musical instrument. My guitar class is fun because I can lean so much stuff and meet so many friends.” – Alvin
- 967) “Arts are important for me because my school gives me an instrument that I can use and learn more about. Arts help me relax and just paly what ever my brain catches. I believe that every body has an art class or type that makes them passionate for.” – Aron
- 968) “Arts are important because without arts there wouldn’t be music. Without music life would be boring. People learn so many things with just one simple class. I love playing guitar and my life would be boring if I didn’t have music or something to distract my mind. I would be sleeping all day. I go to school every day so I can learn something new in my guitar class.” – Yadira Ramirez
- 969) “The arts are important to me because it’s my type of get-away from all of the stress from my classes. I believe having some time to do what we like is really good for us students and you get to make new friends. I like my guitar class because I get to express what I feel through guitar and it just makes me feel better when I play guitar.” – Maria Jimenez
- 970) It’s important to have art classes because it’s a class where I learn how to play guitar and hang out with my friends and learn from what they know how to play. Students benefit from having art classes to distress from all classes when you can hear music all day and it’s relaxing.” – Enrique Rodriguez
- 971) “Yes indeed I like the arts. I find it fun and a getaway from all problems. I enjoy and it opens up our minds. I like arts because all of us fin it fun, it makes school easier.” – Richard T.
- 972) “Me encanta la clase de guitarra. Es la major clase que tengo en todo el dia, todas las clases me gustan pero esta es simplemente relajante. Toda mi vida he querido aprender guitarra y estoy feliz de tener la oportunidad de hacerlo. Mis dias son mucho mejores por esta clases, es un claro cambio al resto de mi horario.” – Dorian Martinez
- 973) “I feel like art classes are important because it’s a way to express yourself and get away of the stress of every other class. Without my art class I wouldn’t have met some of my best friends.” – Angel Haro
- 974) “The arts are important to me because it teachers me a skill that can be useful in the future. And it also creates habits that benefit me like discipline. It’s also important to me because I enjoy playing guitar and it’s relaxing. Plus it’s something different from the classes I have everyday like math and biology.” – Leonardo Bustillos
- 975) “To me the arts are a form of entertainment and an oasis from life. I play the piano, the guitar and the ukulele, two of these instruments are offered in my school. I also enjoy painting and drawing. All my siblings play two or more

instruments as well and we would not be able to do so if they weren't offered in school. We are extremely fortunate to have opportunities like these but I'll admit I sometimes take for granted. The arts help me and may others express themselves when words don't suffice. The arts are outlets of creativity and creativity is what the modern world of politics, economy and society thrive on. The arts keep people occupied and give them something to hold on to. The 21st century is based on entertainment and therefore the arts. The "Arts" is such a broad term that it even covers literature, math, science, very subject really. This is why the arts are extremely crucial in today's age. " – Armae Dilon

- 976) "I like guitar class because it's not boring and I learn how to play an instrument. LOL" – Johan
- 977) "Without arts there wouldn't be music. Without music it would be kinda boring. You wouldn't hear that much music. It is a simple class." – Carlos G.
- 978) "Playing music relieves me from stress because it's something that I love. I chose guitar class, I wasn't put into a random art class. It's very important to have art classes because it helps everyone find their inner passions, talents. Without art classes, I'd be way stressed and my whole world would collapse. I need music and art classes because I can't afford paying for them. My grades would be affected hugely because I wouldn't be getting time to let it all out through music. I pray that art classes never go away." – Alma B.
- 979) "I like guitar because it's fun to play and challenge for me because I like to lean something new and furn. It is also calming and fun to listen to." – Grecia Verduzco
- 980) "I like to play guitar because to me it feels like I can do something with it when I get out of high school and can make the ones around me proud. It's important to have arts because you get a chance to learn something new and express what you do with others. It can help you by getting to meet other people who take that art class and use your knowledge and skills to improve and become strong with it. You can benefit from art classes because by the time you leave school, you can carry on what you learned and use it for the rest of your life." – Joseph Cochran
- 981) "Playing guitar makes me feel good, I like my guitar class because it's like a free time. We don't have to be preoccupied with homework. We learn and play around. I think everybody should have an art class because these classes don't make school boring." – Betsaida Garcia
- 982) "An art class is a place you can be yourself without being judged. Art is a place where you can relieve all the stress in a fun way." – Jorge Carrillo
- 983) "I like playing the guitar because it's fun and I like being in here because it is fun to be with my friends." – Ray
- 984) "I like playing guitar. Do not take away visual performing and arts programs. With these programs creativity blooms inside students to think about what they're passionate about. Kids need to be creative." – Anonymous
- 985) "The arts are important to me because I can learn new stuff and cool stuff and maybe I can dedicate my life to it. The art program to me is very important. I have guitar and piano and I really like them because I just learn music in different instruments. I also learn to work in a team and keep the rithm." – Alonzo
- 986) "Its important to me because we get to learn new things and experience feelings and excitement." – Danny
- 987) "The arts are important because we need to practice them so they don't get lost. Because I got to meet Cassidy. Because it gives me time to relax from other classes. Because I now know how to read notes." – Jaime
- 988) "El arte pare mi es importante ya que es un gran pasatiempo y gran distraccion para uno. Para mi las artes son muy importantes ya que forma parte de la vida cotidiana." – Robin
- 989) "Para mi las artes mas importantes son la danza y la musica ya que ambas forman gran parte de mi vida. La musica es un forma de distaer y darle habilidad al oido. La danza es un forma de expression con cada moviemento que se realiza." – Agustin Torres
- 990) "An art such as guitar takes my mind off al my other classes. Playing the guitar in guitar class feels better than sitting down in a class writing for about an hour. Everyone's good at an art, whether it's drawing, playing an

instrument, or dancing. I like playing the guitar because it sounds great. The guitar was an instrument that I always wanted to learn how to play.” – Antonio Espinoza

- 991) “El arte es importante para mi porque en el arte aprendes nuevas expresiones que tu no sabias de ti mismo, puedes expresarte de una manera u otra. El arte te da como es la persona al mirar una obra u oír una canción por medio de eso compuesto puedes ver la realidad de otra manera en la que no sabias que es uno en verdad.” – Messiah Aguilera
- 992) “Para mi es importante porque es una manera de entretenerme viendo como se toca algún instrumento y querer tocar tu canción favorita en él.” – Lizbeth Torres
- 993) “Arts are important to me because I really want to learn to play guitar. Guitar class really feels comfortable, it makes you feel secure.” – Victor V.
- 994) “It helped me be the first musician in my family. It helps me to stress out. Also now that I have piano, it helps me relax, it distresses me also I finally be able to show to my family that I’m not talent less. The arts are important since my sister knows how to draw and paint. I want her to know of this program so she can learn more than she already does and can also be a musician.
- 995) “I like arts, guitar class. It’s my favorite class this year. I like it because it’s cool and because I’m addicted to Music so I decided to take this class, maybe I will take it next year in my senior year. I really enjoy playing. I love Music and I’m really happy to have this class. It’s fun and I learn many things that I didn’t know before.” – Napa
- 996) “The arts are important to me because it is simply something that I love. The way and the ability of expressing yourself through music is perhaps one of the greatest wonders in life. A man once said, “without music, life would be a mistake” and I agree. Both as an outlet to the daily stress and as a form of expression, music produces a soothing relief to inner and external conflicts as well as an amazing combination of sounds that stimulate happiness and joy. I strongly believe the arts are a part of me, like everyday breathing.” – Daniel Martinez
- 997) “The arts are important to me because I enjoy learning to play guitar. This class is like a get away from my other classes after 5 hours finally comes my last class, Guitar. Through out the year I learned to be more organized and responsible. I’ve learned to keep my instrument safe and also to be organized in keeping my music in my binder. I also got the chance to perform and be recognized by many people. Also got the chance to meet many people whom have helped me and taught me many things. Also having the opportunity to be in this class makes me feel lucky cause many people would like to learn how to play and I come to school to learn.” – Jorge Carrillo
- 998) “I love being able to play instruments. Having a schedule in my day allows for me to expand my knowledge of not only academics but music. Music has allowed me to reach certain goals and have an enjoyable time at school. Playing and learning music has taught me a new “language” being able to read music. Also it is a great way for me to do something different rather than just be a person without knowing how to play an instrument, which not everyone knows how to do.” – Mikayla Charles
- 999) “The arts are important to me because you get many different perspectives of art and it’s a relaxing way for me to express myself in different forms besides talking. I like almost anything in arts because I am strongly influence by it. Art is also a big part of my life which is really nice that schools have different types of art.” – Keirra Charles
- 1000) “The arts class are important to me because I could learn a new skill that I could apply to the work force. Another reason is that I look forward to going to my arts class because not only I get to learn a new skill, I get to meet new people who share the same interest as me. Also it helps me relive stress from work and the new skills I lean have become a hobby which improves my life.” – Michael Meza
- 1001) “The arts are important to me because it gives me a break from my other classes. The arts are stress free and I don’t have to worry about essays and math equations because it’s an outlet. I enjoy music very much and I get a chance to learn more about it. I get to show off a new song that I learned and it makes me happy. In addition, I get to meet interesting and amazing people who make me laugh. Glad I took a performing arts class.” – Cassidy M.
- 1002) “Para mi es muy importante. Quiero aprender guitarra porque quiero darle una impresión a mi madre y mi padre. Yo quiero aprender, mi meta es en este semestre ser mejor.” – Azael Perez

- 1003) "With the arts I can express my feelings and mood. Arts are very funny and interesting and everybody loves them. Some play guitar, sing, others paint." – Carlos Rivera
- 1004) "El arte implica la musica, la danza, la pintura, cultura, etc. con estas cosas podemos aprender mas cosas por ejemplo para mi me ayuda a relajarme y poder desestresarme eso lo hago en la musica." – Andy
- 1005) "Las artes son importantes para mi, en especial la musica porque es lo que me apasiona. Me encanta estar tocando todo el rato que pueda guitarra y ademas me relaja. Apredi a tocar guitarra, ya que la mayoria de la gente que me rodea toca. Uno de mis propositos del 2015 fue aprender a tocar guitarra y lo logre. Esta clase fue la inspiracion el decir que yo saldria adelante con mi guitarra." – R. A.
- 1006) "I like guitar class. It shows me a lot of discipline. It shows mw manners and respect. It teaches me how to manage my time. It teaches me how to be organized." – Moises A.
- 1007) "The arts are important because it's really fun to experience. Art is important because it's easy to learn, it's not an easy "A" but it's really easy to learn. It's a good way to relax and it's my favorite class because it's not a class like all of the lame ones I have. In this class I can have fun and learn at the same time." – Alexis A.
- 1008) "My art class is really fun. It gives me the opportunity to learn something that is fun and will stay with me my whole life. My dad plays guitar and I'm following his footsteps. I love music. I want to be an artist so learning guitar really helps." – Axel Esquer
- 1009) "The arts are really important to me because it is what gets people father. It generates people to get more jobs. It also gives an opportunity to the students to get a res form other academic classes and focus on something different. It benefits the student to get into a good college." – Richard O.
- 1010) "It is a way I can do things that I like during my school days. It also taught me different ways I can use my free time to get better in guitar. Also the arts is a non-boring class where I enjoy attending to school. It's also a very good way I can forget problems from the outside world. The arts is a very important thing to me. I don't know how I could be without having guitar class." – Tomas Morales
- 1011) "The arts are important to me because it helps strengthen our brains and do something I love and could possibly be a career in my life. It's a passion for me listening to music, special since I have a hearing problem being deaf from one ear. Arts help with communication with others. Helped me make friends because they have same interest as me. Arts help me keep my grades up. These are reasons why the arts program is important to me." – Jorge P.
- 1012) "I like to be in guitar class because by the end of the year I will be able to play guitar very well. Ms. Tejada is a really good guitar teacher and I learn a lot in her class." – Jose E.
- 1013) "Guitar class has been a discipline class. It showed me how to perform in front of people. Also it showed me how to play guitar and lastly it is fun and the teacher is good at teaching." – Melissa S.
- 1014) "Arts are important because they can help you later when you have to make a song also could make you more intelligent and know all the notes and get better grades." – Lemus
- 1015) "The arts are important to me because I like to be creative and express myself. Drawing was a big inspiration for me. Drawing, arts, it's an awesome feeling when you're getting good at it." –Mariana Diaz
- 1016) "I feel like it is important to have arts because even if you're doing bad in other classes, you can come to music class and just relax. For me personally I like to sing. I don't like to tell people about it and I'm very shy in front of people but singing, I feel, is just another way to let everything out without just talking. I know other people feel a way connected to their art, which can be singing or playing guitar, etc. But everyone as a way related to art that helps them."-Alexis Oyama
- 1017) "The arts are important, because they are a way that I can escape from all the boring classes. The arts are the only reason why I really come to school. If it was not for the arts, I would drop out of school. I can make the decision of dropping out of school any time I want. The only think that is holding me from doing that, are my art classes."-Alejandro Diaz

- 1018) “The arts are important to me because it’s the only class that you can be your true self and not feel judged. All assignments are based on your creativity and it’s a free period to relax and paint.” –Jennifer Gutierrez
- 1019) “The arts are important to me because it’s one of my passions to draw, paint and to have fun. It gives people an opportunity to get to draw and learn how to draw.” –Jacque Romero
- 1020) “The arts are important to me because it lets us express the talents that we have without being embarrassed or shy. It’s important to everyone I believe. Having art is another way to communicate with people. I don’t want the districts to take away the arts because I love my mariachi class. They’re like my 2nd family. My art class is important to me because I love it I want to get better at what I love playing.” –Miriam Martinez
- 1021) “The arts are important to be because it’s the only class I can express myself and be creative. It’s a class where I can relax and focus myself on drawing and painting. It makes me happy.” –Karina Alvarez
- 1022) “The arts bring me down to earth by making me realize I’m not good at everything. Doing anything arts related gives me such a nice, humbling experience.” –Juan Santiago
- 1023) “The arts are important to me because I feel free to express my inner self. Also, I get to sit next to all my friends and have a fun time in class. During art class we get a lot of time to work on our projects and take time to better our skills. Lastly, the environment makes me realize the creative talent everybody has. That is why the arts in this school is important to me.” –Daniel Valencia
- 1024) “The arts are important to me because of two reasons. First, the arts are able to capture the beauty of the world, letting others appreciate what can be far away from our reach. Secondly, it allows me, and everyone else, to express our creativity and emotions in different ways and styles.” –Brandon Olmos
- 1025) “Art is important for me because is a very big industry that allows people’s creativity and originality to be rewarded with sharing it worldwide or in a smaller magnitude. Drawing, painting and sculpting will always be around in this world no matter how computerized the future gets, every building or idea started with a drawing. People should not forget the power of colors, pencil and paper because those are just tools to help us show other people see what is going on inside our head and for communication. All big industries once or the majority of the time need advertisement and that means drawing and showing eye-catching commercials, posters, and logos that started with some advertisement person who once was in an art class and had the skills to make those ads.” –Yaideth C.
- 1026) “Art is what shows us the beauty of the creativity of the mind. Truth is drawn on a piece of paper making it called art. Art has many meanings to any history or events.” –Manny
- 1027) “Art is important to me because I need to get better at drawing. It will maybe also give me better penmanship. I want to become better in drawing than I was in middle school.” –Justin Woody
- 1028) “The arts are important to me because it helps me express myself and calm myself. Find myself having a good time in art class. Art is freedom and fun.” –Melanie Garcia
- 1029) “The arts are important to me because it helps me relax. The arts is a way to express yourself in a drawing and that’s what I like.” –Iraq Blanco
- 1030) “The arts are important to me because it gets us (Students) to become more creative and a sense of who we are. Maybe we find that we were talented in something more than sports and education. Also, it’s a form of self-expression that we rarely are able to express in any typical class-math, English, social science, etc.” –Arianna Crosthwalte
- 1031) “Art is important to me because it is a way of self-expression. It is a fun class to take because you really can see how creative you are when the art teachers push you into being the best artist you can be. Art is all around us and affects us in all ways and it is nice to know we are all different and unique.” –Julieth Juang
- 1032) “To me, arts are important because it’s a way I like to express myself and I n like to draw because I feel more relaxed when I do it. Arts are a great way to be more creative.” –Ariana Arguilez

- 1033) "Art is important because it allows people to express their feelings with the drawings. I can make creative stuff in art. I love ART." –Angel Real
- 1034) "The arts is important to me because, to me it's a stress reliever. It helps my mood drastically when I'm mad or upset." –Luis Estrada
- 1035) "This art class is important to me because I get to relax. I like talking with friends and creating new things. It is a good way to relieve stress." –Julissa Hernandez
- 1036) "The art is important to me because with the art I can express what I feel. Also, I can let my imagination run and I like it." –Yaretzi Soto
- 1037) "I really enjoy art because I get to express myself. I get to learn new ways to draw and show different ways. And also because I always enjoyed it a lot. They are really important." –Katya B.
- 1038) "Arts is important to me because it's a way to express yourself. It's just a way to do things or draw stuff you have never done. Express yourself, keeps you out the street. Art is something to help you out." –Alejandra Zavala
- 1039) "I'm in art because I enjoy painting and drawing. I also get to show my feelings in art and I can't do this in the rest of my classes. I also like to paint my drawing really colorful and I can do this in this class." –Patricia Sandoval
- 1040) "Art is important to me because it is something new to be active and help inside your brain. Art is weird and interesting at the same time. It motivates some students and some don't but it can be like a side learning activity. Art can be used a different way like dance, music, and drawing. It is a good way to be active and healthier to be distracted by some stuff." –Kevin Ruiz
- 1041) "Because I can express how I'm feeling. Sometimes it's a distraction for the bad vibes, but anyways, since I was little I started to like painting, it was a hobby for me." –Araly Arvizu
- 1042) "The arts are important to me because it lets me express my emotions and create my imagination. Something I really like to do is paint and that is something I can do in class." –Janeliz Arce
- 1043) "Art is important to me because it's the only class where I can express myself. Also it's the only class where I can draw and have fun." –Jayleanna Ruiz
- 1044) "I think it is very important because it can help you concentrate and do your best and having to do what you know what to do and to have fun while you paint." –Kate Jimenez
- 1045) "It's the only way to escape the real world or just express and be true to yourself and it's fun for me to paint and draw it's my hobby. Plus this class is my favorite." –Aliyan Ledesma
- 1046) "Having an art class is important to me because it's a place where one can go to after having a long rough day. The environment is peaceful and the projects don't require much effort." –Kathy Sanchez
- 1047) "I believe art is important because it relates to our inner artist inside us all. It's a chance for everyone to genuinely be creative with no limits or any restrictions. This is my first year taking and I'm enjoying it a lot." –Kate Sanchez
- 1048) "Well because I like it and besides helps me keep or better my creativity. I think others think kinda the same as why are arts important to you?" –Josob R.
- 1049) "Because you can become creative in the same thing that you like or have to do but some people are amazing on what they are doing." –Bradley Andrade
- 1050) "The art is important to me because I can use my imagination to create a variety of things and I love to draw." – Juan S.
- 1051) "Because usually because that express what we want or what we like." –Alfonso Castellanos
- 1052) "The arts are important to me because it gives me a chance to express my creativity." –Elizabeth Salas

- 1053) "The arts are important to me because it is the only class that helps me express my creativity. Also, I enjoy drawing and painting." –Devorah Magallon
- 1054) "The arts are important to me because when I come inside art class, I feel relaxed because art can help you express yourself and be who you are. I like my art class because it is a time to be creative and learn important things." –Diana Lopez
- 1055) "Because it shows us the creativity that we can inspire from our teacher and when we draw." –Fernando Z.
- 1056) "Many people find comfort in this. It is also how they express themselves." –Anonymous
- 1057) "Because art class is a easy class and I can draw my favorite things and more." -Salcedo
- 1058) "I like to paint and drew things like to be creativ." –Erick H.
- 1059) "I think art is important because drawing is fun it lit the artist inside and draw amazing out of you." –Abraham R.
- 1060) "I like art because I like drawing and the class is pretty easy. Also cause you can express your creativity."-Lazcano
- 1061) "Painting is fun and creativity is important in life." –Michael Bara
- 1062) "The arts help people in many ways. Academically, emotionally, and socially. The arts help people academically by helping their speaking skills and people get to learn background history. The arts also help people emotionally, some people pour their hearts out when they sing and some people share their feelings by painting. Lastly, the arts help kids socially by getting to know kids that share the same passion." –Yvette Tristan
- 1063) "The arts are so important to me because it has made me realize that I'm more than what I thought I was. Being in drama has made me become a better person, I have met and made amazing new people that I love. School is like my second home and family and when I meet new people they become part of my family and they stay my family and I love them. Arts is important because then children wouldn't have been able to become the person that they are now and I live my school and my friends/family. Having arts has made me realize that who I am...this is the real me and I wouldn't be the person that I am now without drama because having drama in my life has made me a better person thus making be able to know new people and new friends and I love my arts."-Jaylina, Grade 8
- 1064) "Without drama I would not be the person I am today. Acting has helped me to be more confident and overcome my shyness. I have moved to many schools because of my dad's job. Drama and acting has helped me make friends and has made me feel involved in my school. It also helps to know that these skills I learned in class can help me in the future." –Isabel Alvarez
- 1065) "The arts are important to me because public speaking and presenting is important in classes. Learning how to project and not being afraid to be silly and awkward in front of others is huge. The arts help me to grow. When I began middle school I had to overcome my fear of being shy. Being in drama was a great privilege now I am far away from shy. I am glad the arts are here and they helped me to become outgoing."–Melissa Ortega
- 1066) "The arts are important because it helps me overcome my nervousness and helps me be less shy. It also helps me collaborate through being creative with my friends. In addition, it also adds fun to the day because it helps me release my inner self through creativity."-Jacob S.
- 1067) "The arts are important to me because it teaches me to work well with others. It helped me become confident and it helped me learn new vocabulary. It also helped me learn how to show my creativity through performances. The arts are important to me."-Isabel Garcia, Grade 8
- 1068) "The arts are important to me for many reasons. One of the reasons is because the arts helped my confidence level. I learned how to talk in front of a big class. Last year, I was involved in every drama event in some way. I was able to make new friends throughout the arts. These are all reasons why I love the arts."-Diana Lira, Grade 8
- 1069) "The arts are important to me for many reasons. To start, I believe it helps students work together and help open up. If I didn't get introduced to our drama department I would still be known as "Shy Alyssa," its help me build my

self confidence when I get on stage in front of hundreds of people and has taught me things other classes wouldn't. So for these reasons, I really appreciate the arts.”-Alyssa Valdivia, Grade 8

- 1070) “The arts are important to me because it teaches me time management skills, to cooperate with other students and it teaches me reading skills, too. It also allowed me to meet many people I would have not known otherwise and vice versa. The arts teach me many new words and facts that are very interesting. Finally, it teaches me many life skills that I can use in real life.”-Michael Salon, Grade 8
- 1071) “The arts can do many things for a student. It is a motivation to come to school and do something fun. It can help express your individuality and think of it as a fun activity during school. If we didn't have the arts school would be boring and students wouldn't want to go to school. It also helps us to have creativity and imagination in our lives. It can also help build a talent for kids to be able to sing, dance, act, or play an instrument. The arts can help students in many different ways.”-Alexia Ambriz
- 1072) “The arts are very important to me. For us it's a way to express ourselves and do what we love most. Around this time in our lives, us adolescents are developing our identity and who we are. With the arts, this can help us see who we are and find ourselves in music, dancing, and acting. Usually kids express themselves in a form of art and without art most children can't express themselves. The arts usually help me relax and use this time to express my emotions and take a short break from my other subjects.”-Valeria Rodriguez, 7th grade
- 1073) “The arts important to me because without the arts there would be nothing to look forward to at school. The arts is where people get to express themselves as actors, singers, performers, and as an artist. Edutopia states, “Arts leaning improves motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork.” “Involvement in the arts is associated with gains in math, reading, critical thinking, and verbal skill,” states Edutopia. Without the arts students wouldn't do so well academically.”-Dawn Jones, Grade 7
- 1074) “The arts are very important to me for many reasons. One reason is because the arts allow me to be how I want to be without being criticized. It also helps me find who I am and lets me express myself. It also teaches kids about teamwork and how it is to work with other people. Another thing it teaches us is confidence. There are many kids who are shy and have low confidence so being able to show your talent and other people recognizing it gives people confidence.”-Arieth T., Grade 7
- 1075) “The arts are important because it can build the imagination and inspire the children of tomorrow. I not only inspires but builds a new skill that kids will have for the rest of their life. The arts also provide a fun class that students can have other than P.E., math, and other classes. The arts also force kids to make friends with kids that have the same interest as them. Finally it develops teamwork.”-Cristian Gonzalez, Grade 7
- 1076) “The arts are an essential subject to the everyday lives of students. Having arts gives the student a motivation to go to school. The students learn and enjoy so much with an arts class. They make many friends and rejoice their talent. Me as a guitar major I believe in the magical change music has had on my life. I have been playing for almost 7 years. I would hate the idea of taking away the opportunity of a lifetime for these students who don't know of their amazing talents. The arts have to be in every ones lives. The arts are why we enjoy going to theme parks, concerts, or just historic landmarks. Without creativity we would have nothing. Architecture for example has advanced and expanded to other cultures. These great landmarks as we call the wonders of the world used the arts. So please I encourage you to rethink about taking away the arts.”-Arturo A. Comparan
- 1077) “Las artes son importantes porque si tienes un mal dia esto te puede contentar. Otra cosa es que podras tener un talento que tu ni saves y al fin con las clases lo tratas y te gusta o eres muy bueno/a en eso. Tambien puedes tener una passion de cantar un tipo de musica y no te apoyan tus papas porque alomejor es mucho dinero pero aqui es gratis. La verdad es muy importante tener arte. Porque si saves mas de cosas es mejor. Porque no nomas matematicas ni biologia es trabajo tambien hay trabajos de musica arte deporte y mas.”-Alessa Vazquez
- 1078) “Arts are important to me because when I grow up I want to be a photograph and photography is art. The reason why I view photography as an art because every photo has a meaning and the photos are worth a hundred words. Photography helps me focus and I get in the zone. Art are very important because I have anxiety and art cannot only help me but they can help others too. The art of music is also important to me because music really calms me down and you can play whatever. And you can be free.”-Alycia Garcia

- 1079) "The arts are important to me because I believe it's a way of expressing yourself. Every art class is like a big family making it fun and exciting to do. Also, it's a stress reliever. If you really like what you're doing it's more likely for you to get a good grade or have a better mood. I think every student should take an art class because maybe they have a hidden talent and being in an art class is the beginning of a career for them. Lastly, I think every school needs some sort of art or creative class because its one of many outlets for students."-Andrea Maldonado
- 1080) "The arts are important to me because I enjoy playing the violin. It makes me feel that I have accomplished something in my life. Sometime I think, if I can do that then what else can I do. The arts classes make me enjoy coming to school because they are parts of my life. Being in orchestra and now mariachi have really shaped the way I am today. I feel more educated in the subject of music because of the classes offered at CVHS."-Mariasinai Espriu
- 1081) "Las artes son importantes pra mi porque es divertido y mas aqui en la escuela porque ahora no solo tengo que hacer matematicas etc. Y pues asi no tengo que pagar otro lugar para aprender usar instrumento. Si me quitaran la clase me enojaria por que tal vez no me gusta mucho mariachi pero estoy aprendiendo a tocar un instrument algo que en mi casa no me dejarian y aparte las clases son divertidas porque puedes aprender otra cosa y tal vez tambien me interese otra clase como arte o baile pero yo primero quiero terminar ya despues que termine de aprender de tocar me cambie."-Gabriela Loretto
- 1082) "The arts are important to me because it makes your high school years better. The arts for me is also a way to express myself. The arts help me get away of my outside problems. The arts class help you get good discipline for student, the arts class lets me see or do stuff that I don't normally due in my normal life. Life with arts class is one of the best thing school can have it make a students life more fun, and joy full."-Less Tachiki
- 1083) "The arts give me a break from my other classes. They also give me something fun and exciting that I WANT to learn. Also, most of my friends are from other classes so it's really fun to talk to them about our arts class and we get to perform together. It's honestly just an escape from all my other classes...a safe place."-Ashley Lopez
- 1084) "I believe having arts is important because to me it really relaxes me. I don't have to think about what's really going on at home. It's as if it's my own personal therapy. The arts has also helped me grow as a person. I found my creative side and as corny as it may sound, I found my inner peace. In my case it benefits me because I have a goal to be someone in life. I aspire to be a singer and mariachi has helped me in many ways. Making my voice stronger as well as shaping my voice. Folklorico has helped me too, I've lost my stage fright. But I am not just speaking for myself, but for everyone. Let's just think about it for a few minutes. When if a child felt mediocre and the arts was it's only over-achieved class? How do you think they would feel?"-Stephanie Aguilar
- 1085) "The arts are important because it allows a person to find and express themselves. For me it allows me to leave the stressfull day of math and English to go and learn how to play new songs. Arts is what allows us as students to escape the stress and relax and be themselves. Students meet new people, make better friends, maybe even find the love of their life. Don't take away the arts."-Ricardo Piña
- 1086) "Chula Vista High is known for having one of the best art program in the district, which is one of the main reasons I decided to attend this school. This year I am part of three art classes and I have to say it's a great way of forgetting school problem and assignments for at least 1 hour a day. Being part of Ballet Folklorico, Piano, and Mariachi has taught me so many things such as discipline, respect, time management, and most important passion. Throughout my high school career I have had multiple AP classes and ballet folklorico has helped me forget about the stress and it has led me to find new adventures. It is also nice to know that in the arts program students can express themselves without being judged or being graded for having a wrong answer. This year I will be graduating and the memories I have made in the arts classes, such as performances, I will cherish the most (:"-Martha Cortez
- 1087) "Not only is it a way to find oneself but it gives students discipline. The SCPA takes commitment from students. Since they choose a "major" to take for four years it's a form of commitment to the instrument. The arts have helped through dark times in my life. They have allowed me to be more confident with myself and putting myself out there. If it wasn't for the arts I probably would not know what to do with my life. I would have probably not even considered going to college."-Adrian A.
- 1088) "The arts are important to me because its one of the few programs that push for me to want to be at school and learn. Being a leader I'm not in only one arts program, but two. It teaches me to have more responsibility and to

have respect for my teammates and peers. When I was not a leader I still learned all these things. For example, how to manage my time, how to set goals for not only school but these activities and it also really taught me how to be organized. Becoming a leader in these programs helped me to develop these skills and push me to be the person I am now.”-Breanna Wallace

- 1089) “I think that art classes are important because they are where you mostly make memories of high school. The outlet of all the work. And that what bring excitement to schools. We join what represents us.”-Odalís R.
- 1090) “Having arts classes can give students more discipline and education. Also, students will be more responsible due to the fact that they will have to attend to their practices and performances. Another reason to keep arts classes is because students actually have fun with these classes. Students have benefits with the performing arts classes.”-Tania Maya
- 1091) “Music is a way to keep my mind active and positive. Reading music is a lot more complicated than reading a book since you need to worry about key signatures, accidentals, clefs, time signatures, etc. this makes it interesting and gives a feeling of fulfillment once accomplished.”-Bill
- 1092) “Whether it be dance, mariachi, drama, etc. they cause the performers or artists a sense of joy that connects to the audience. The arts are a gateway to having better interpersonal communications, and meeting people that have similar interest as you. Being able to balance the life of a student being part of SCPA helps a person know how to balance life outside of high school and in college with a job. For some students they have to come to school, opportunities like this are worth continuing to have.”-Jacqueline Puga
- 1093) “When I first joined mariachi it was in 8th grade. I wasn’t fully aware about mariachi or what SCPA was. It wasn’t until one day I watched an advanced group perform. I was in love. Seeing students perform made me feel fascinated and I wanted to be just like them. Till this day I remember this feeling. Once I joined I fell in love with the arts and wanted to do more art in life. Joining the art made me join various other arts that ranged from music to dance. Till this day I love the program and it’s the best program. Its kept me on a path to success.”-Anonymous
- 1094) “The arts are important to me because it gives me something fun to do in my free time. It is also a motivation for me because I know I need to have good grades to continue in the arts. I know that if I wasn’t in mariachi or color guard I would be bored at home. The electives I have taken have also made me many amazing friends who have become so special to me. Finally I have learned to be responsible in balancing out schedules and learning to keep track of everything I need to do.”-Lily Diaz
- 1095) “In my opinion, the arts are important to me because mariachi sums up a long lost part of me and I did not find until I got to it in the 6th grade. It gives me a chance to release my inner peace throughout the base, the music flows alongside me, I feel the music, I smell the music, I am the music. If it were to be removed from my life, I just would simply not be the same. It shows me an extreme amount of discipline. I live the mariachi life, I have a mariachi soul. These generations can’t just end here. Let it live, please.”-Nathaniel Martinez
- 1096) “The arts are important to me (especially mariachi) because it is a tradition with my family it is an outlet for the stress that other classes give me this class in general can help students when they graduate because instead of working a part time job, earning \$7 an hour, you can work when you want and earn at a good amount and be able to support yourself doing something you love to do.”-Mario T.
- 1097) “Having arts in general helps you grow as a person. You experience things that you wouldn’t normally do in other classes. For example going out and doing presentation. Showing people how much time and practice you have put into a specific art. It helps you meet new people with the similar passion that you have.”-Xavier Barajas
- 1098) “The performing arts here at Chula Vista High have become a staple to my life. To me, learning music in mariachi is like learning and new and exotic language. One that translates to beautiful serenity and emotion. Folklorico has taught me to use my body to show lively enthusiasm that bring great joy to my life and to those who see our ballet dances. Both these things have taught me discipline and respect for my companions and my instructors. It has also brought me to meet many good friends in my life. This is what the performing art classes mean to me.”
- 1099) “To me art is not an option but a necessity. Without art and its creativity, the world would be lifeless and monotonous. Ideas sprout from creativity, so with no creativity humanity will stay at a standstill and never

advance. That is why we require art to create solutions, to accept differences, and to live vividly. So let's continue creating something from the blanks of the world."-Mario Gerardo

- 1100) "I don't think I'm able to put an exact definition on what art means to me. Art could literally be anything. From doodles in math class to a lump of dog leftovers on the sidewalk. Every single piece of art affects everybody in some type of way and those who deny it are lying. Art is more than pretty pictures painted on a canvas, it's more than a turd on the sidewalk. Personally, I'm not very good at most things, so the fact that art could be anything has really pushed me to be open minded and has helped me grow to be a better person than I could've been."-Zoe Duffer
- 1101) "The art is important to me because it is a way that I can express my actions, feelings, and thoughts in a way that I don't express much around people. To me art isn't beautiful or ugly, to me it's mesmerizing. It can give you an idea of what the artist may be throughout the piece. Without art, I'd be a gloomy version of myself. Before I didn't know what art was until I learned so now art is my passion, my way of life, I tend to sketch or actually take pictures of things that seem abnormal, either when I'm feelings down."-Sandra Escobar
- 1102) "Why is art important to me? Well I think art to me is very important and a really good gift and talent. It allows me to create a world of imaginative forms of figures. It allows me to focus my mind of what creations I can make reality. Art is everything! And everywhere. Without art we wouldn't exist. Even the human body is art to me."-Adrian Ramirez
- 1103) "The arts are important to me because it opens up a realm of creativity. The world and my surroundings give me a sense of all types of arts and how they are used in significant ways. Opportunities in future careers to everyday activities are built because of the importance of art to me."-Alayna Abellana
- 1104) "The arts are important because without the arts we'd live in a black and white world. The arts help express our feelings and show others our thoughts. It allows my inner thoughts to be let out through creativity. Art relieves stress letting your mind out on the paper and thinking of nothing else but your drawing. Art helps me be me."-Katherine Camante
- 1105) "The arts are important to me because being in drama has really helped me come out of my shell. Normally, I wouldn't even be able to do a presentation, but when I'm up on stage I'm able to get up there and act. Acting has helped in every aspect of my life. Not only drama but every art is able to do this. In music, your up on stage performing. It really builds up self-confidence. Being in drama has really made up my mind about being an actor. The show we had in the fall was my first performance. I was really nervous, but just being in this class helped me get up there and do it. Drama is the only reason I like coming to school. It helped with everything. It made me a stronger person. That is why the arts are important to me."-Anonymous
- 1106) "The arts are important to me because it allows me to express all sides of myself that I usually don't get to show. It's an outlet for all present and hiding emotions, it satisfies the curiosity of being something else and in turn creates empathy and expands creativity. Drama pushes you to the limits of what you can do and think by challenging your body and voice to create a realistic character or situation. Accomplishing or even trying to do this leaves you with qualities that you can apply to everyday life."-Eliana Medina
- 1107) "The arts are important to me because it's been my form of emotional release. Whenever I have a problem of things just don't seem to be going great I can always compose and sit in front of my piano and just play my troubles away, I could just write and set my pen on fire with a story, I can numb my fingers and my arm strumming the strings on my guitar. I can transform myself into someone else with acting and make an audience feel. I can impact people through art, and art has impacted me, without art the world would just be "eh."-Victoria Bustillos
- 1108) "Honestly, asking me why things like music and theatre are important to me is like asking me why air is important to me. It's not like I need the arts to survive, but there is a good chance I would shrivel up and die if I didn't have them. Does that answer your question?"-Anonymous
- 1109) "The arts are important to me because it is a way to express our feelings in our actions, such as when we act, draw, dance, or sing. It is a way to be creative in what we are doing and a way in which we can explore different parts of ourselves."-Sophie Ceballos

- 1110) "The arts are important to me because they are what makes the world an interesting place. My major is drama and I love it because not only do I get to be one person on stage, I get to be myself in real life, and I can use it in real like situations such as interviews."-Jazmin Rodriguez
- 1111) "The arts are important to me because it makes me a more outgoing person. It allows me to get out of my comfort zone which helps me in the real world when I find myself in situations where I cannot be shy"-Bernice Padilla
- 1112) "The arts is important to me and the kids in the SCPA because it stimulates our brains bringing us great joy everyday. Our school is unlike any other schools providing more activities and making another day at school actually mean something. Without the art programs in our school then the student body would be dull and lifeless making wach school day hard to go to."-Jennifer Alvarado
- 1113) "Attending to a school of performing arts has impacted my life. For example dance made me happier and could express myself. Also, drama has made me confront my fears and be creativity."-Vanessa Felix
- 1114) "The arts are important to me because it is a confidence booster. It is also another way to learn about different cultures through the arts. The arts also help students express themselves which I think is a great opportunity."-Gabrielle Loop
- 1115) "The arts are important to me because I can express myself, I can be whatever I want on stage, I can make people laugh, cry, happy, make people understand things, it's my talent, it's what I like to do, go on stage and act, be creative, be me."-Jeffrey Saldaña
- 1116) "Art is important to me because it helps expand my creativity. It helps me express my feelings in different ways, shapes and sizes, it's very flexible. It's important for people to take at least one art class, because I believe until then, their creativity is held back, or limited."-Kayla Alayon
- 1117) "Art lets me tell a story. Not just any story; my story. Art allows me to express unsaid words, my past, my hopes, my dreams. It allows me to express issues that I've never quite dealt with. It is my escape; my high. Art is important to me because without it I'd have no sanctuary to escape my inner demons. Art is what saves me."-Cassandra Ceron
- 1118) "Art is going to allow me to see the fruit of my labors, and that's a great satisfaction. Art allows you to do whatever you want and. No, that's it."-Carlo Jacobo
- 1119) "The arts are important to me because it's always good to learn something new even if your not going to use it later on. Also there is man things about art that you didn't even know existed."-Anonymous
- 1120) "The arts are important to me because they make me get good grades in all my classes so I wont get kicked out of the Scpa program. Another reason why its important to me is because most of the friends I have I met them in dance the Scpa programs teach responsibility, honesty and many more thing that makes us students a better person. Also, it's a great opportunity and it also looks great on a college application. However, the teachers from the Scpa program take it really serious and they are the ones that push us to always do best in dance for example we can't do a combination, the teachers would help you and go step by step until you learn the combination. All of the dances teachers help a lot. Though out the years I've gotten closer to them cause they are kind, nice, patient & they show us love. When I first joined dance in middle school I never thought I could do things I do not. Its been only 3 years and I have gotten better at ballet, tap & jazz. Also I can now do the splits and I've gotten really flexible too. I have a lot of friends in the scpa programs like orchestra, folkorico, Drama and they have also learned a lot and they have improve a lot. Their concerts are great and they look so happy while doing what they love."
- 1121) "For the past years there has been a huge debacle through out the school district. Should we cut out the arts? The main reason for this is that there is not enough money for every single little thing. So they automatically turn straight toward the arts, WHY!!!!!!! Just because it's easier? Why don't you cut out other subjects because the arts are just as important due to their contribution towards a person. The arts are important to me because it helps me express myself because I am a very shy person who doesn't talk out loud in class or open my self to new people or things. But since I am in SCPA Dance. I am starting to get confident and branch out more. One example is when we perform. I have had the privilege to do the home coming halftime show twice and be part in our dance spring concert. I actually did facials and since the arts is my safe zone, I want to join cheer also

because the arts have made me more comfortable with myself. I can assure you that many other people will say the same. Since the board doesn't give us money, when they see our dance concerts and think "WOW", they did that without our money. Then hopefully they will donate because we did it by ourselves."

- 1122) "The arts have played a significant role in my life for the past three years. I dreamed of dancing since I could remember. The types of dance I specialize in are: ballet, tap, and jazz. My dance experience began at Chula Vista Middle School with Ms. Beverly Norriss as my teacher. She and my peers made my dance experience amazing. Ms. Norriss helped me challenge myself and when I thought I had reached my limits she pushed me past them. She opened my eyes to the beauty and countless opportunities that the dance world holds. When I came to Chula Vista High School my experience continued. The dance instructors here have taught me that technique and ability come from hard work and dedication. They have also showed me to apply that in the classroom. Being here and being part of the homecoming performance was amazing. And I hope to be part of it for the rest of my high school dance career. Dance holds many opportunities that I hope to pursue. My dance experience is definitely one to remember." – Nayeli Rodriguez
- 1123) "The arts have played a significant role in my life for the past 3 years. The art that I am in is dance and we do ballet, jazz, and tap. Dance is a very disciplined art. I think that being in the arts it keeps me occupied and can keep me out of trouble. Being in dance gives me another meaning of what dancing is. Being in dance for 3 years has made me improve my technique because when I first started I didn't know what to do. My middle school teacher Beverly Norriss showed me how professional dancers work and what they do during shows. Dance has shown me that if I want to get better I need to apply myself. Dance can bring me so many opportunities later in life if I continue dancing when I graduate." – T'Yanna Daniel
- 1124) "Having a dance class has played a really important role in my life, it has taught me a lot of things that probably couldn't possibly learn if I wasn't in the arts. They taught me responsibility, posture & so many other things. I believe that the arts help us open up our mind in so many levels. To just think outside the box. Because the amount of things we do usually require that type of thinking & it helps because in the outside world you're set apart for thinking that way, you much more than everyone else. In middle school, our dance teachers were very strict, and it was helpful honestly because it helped all of us stay disciplined & keep us out of trouble. Now that we're in high school I know why she did that & I thank her because it all makes sense, she did it for the better. Dance has also taught me that if you want to master something let's say like for instance a "double" pirovettce, you need to apply yourself & practice, if not you're not gonna get any improvements. Overall, I believe that dance has just opened my mind and helped me out in so many ways that possibly wouldn't happen if I wasn't in the arts." – Kimberly Ruiz
- 1125) "The arts are important to me because there are so many opportunities to perform and I can do something I love. Most dance classes are very expensive outside of school so being able to dance inside school and fundraising helps out a lot. I have been wanting to dance since I was 8 years old and having a chance to dance since 7th grade is an amazing opportunity for me. My favorite thing to do is perform and learning how to perform and get ready for a show will help me when I get older. The confidence I gain from dance I use everyday in something small or big it definitely helps everyday." – Cristina Wallace
- 1126) "The arts are very important to me especially dance. Dance is a very intense and disciplined sport that is why I love it so much. Everyday when I enter the dance room a happy feeling always rushes over me, it is a place that I call my happy place. Whenever I feel sad dance can automatically bring me up it helps me be disciplined and pay more attention to the little things. Dance also brings me more opportunities to have colleges come to my school and show their way of dance."
- 1127) "The arts are important because you will learn new things and they might help you in your future. These special classes will discipline you, they will help you being creative in any way possible. The past three years of dance have been really fun and dance took me to another level which is responsibility, discipline and creativity. It's hard work but it will help you later on if you want to be a professional dancer and you want that to be your career. Dancing and being a dancer is a great experience and will create new exciting memories with your friends. And for me it helps me with my memory I memorize the dancers which that is a good thing. Jazz, ballet, and tap have been really fun and I love taking dance class it's a really good experience and you learn new things in dance every day in to me. Dance class has opened my eyes and seen things differently." - Samantha Navarro
- 1128) "The arts are important to me and especially dance. Dance is important in and out of school. It helps me be disciplined. I think that having the SCPA program in our school is very important because not all schools have this program. I feel that our school is very fortunate to have such an excellent dance program."

- 1129) “The arts are important to me because ever since I could remember I always loved to dance. Not many schools offer the kind of performing arts that Chula Vista High does. I may not see that as a full time career when I’m older but for one of the most important years of my life in high school, I see dance being a main priority. Any kind of art class lets people express themselves in their own kind of way, a way that maybe other people don’t understand. I believe that any kind of the art class you are in, it can be significant because you may want to pursue a career in that field in one’s adulthood. Dance is important to me because it’s one of the few things I’m very passionate about, it lets me express myself through movement not sound from my mouth. Once I started dancing it’s almost like it became a part of my, something that I wanted to stay consistent about. I’m very lucky that Chula Vista High offers something that I’m very dedicated and passionate about and for that I’m grateful.” – Alejandra Cisneros
- 1130) “The arts are important to me because it gives me something to look forward to when I’m stressing over school. Here at Chula Vista High, they offer a huge variety of different electives unlike other schools. I chose dance and not only have I learned to dance but I also have discipline. Throughout the school year, the dance department has dance concerts, workshops and field trips. The arts are nice thing to offer at school and what students enjoy.”
- 1131) “The arts are very important for many reasons. I’m very passionate about Dance, I feel like I could express myself freely. Performing makes me feel great and being able to show other people my moves. Putting on a costume is so exciting because it feels that this is something I could do the rest of my life. Chula Vista High School is very fortunate to have teachers that really care about you and your passionate for the arts. Our SCPA program is excellent and dedicated. Our teachers always plan for performers to visit our school and teach us the process. These are a couple reasons why the arts are important to me.”
- 1132) “The arts, such as dance, drama, choir, band, orchestra, and many others, are very important to our Chula Vista High School & my personal life. As a member of the dance program, I appreciate the lessons that improve my talents as well as my personality & wellbeing. One way the dance program improves my talent is by providing ideas & plans to make me more flexible & dedicated. I have only been in dance for 2 years and have seen great improvements on my technique. The way we work in groups & collaborate in performances improves the teamwork needed to make a great team. My personality toward the arts has changed since I was involved in dance. Dance is an inspiration & a way to express your self in a sport. It is beautiful & I would never change it for anything else.”
- 1133) “Arts at my school are every important to me. Not only does it open up many doors of opportunities for me, but the arts define each student uniquely. Here are the dance department are many dancers filled with potential & great skills of technique. Dance is just another way to express your feelings & thoughts in a way you can’t. Although the dance costumes are very pricey, Mrs. Jaime & Mrs. Ingram, along with Mrs. Navarette are very creative & responsible. Coming up with ideas to fundraise for dance isn’t easy, but isn’t impossible. Not only dance is important, but the other arts as well. Chula Vista High School is known for the arts school of creative and performing arts. This school provides opportunities for students who can’t afford dance, choir, art, mariachi, etc. classes. If anything dance has taught me discipline, responsibility, respect, kindness in & out of school. I can happily say that I dedicate my hard work & effort to dance. One of the reasons I love coming to school is being able to walk into dance class dressed & ready to learn. I hope the arts doesn’t get cut because it’s become a huge part of my life.” – Alexis Murgula
- 1134) “I like Arts because Dance makes me feel free and everyone likes watching it. Like the half time show I feel like CVHS wouldn’t be known if it wasn’t for the arts.”
- 1135) “I love the Arts in dance and it’s been a blast. I’m so thankful to have the chance to be at this school. Arts bring so much to my school; we all get together and share with each other what we’ve learned. Dance helps with my anxiety and stress. Dance class is the main reason why I come to school every day. The arts teach values of teamwork, balancing with times which will be very useful when we start working. I was so glad in 8th grade when I got accepted in the SCPA for dance. I’ve been dancing since I was 2. I wanted to continue and pursue dance. I’m also very thankful for all the fun field trips we’ve gotten. My dance class helps with my balance, technique and time. It’s also very nice to have the chance to perform for a crowd and have amazing costly costumes. Thank you for providing us with many different arts.” – Alyssa Converse
- 1136) “The arts are important to me because you get to experience new things. Also if you are in arts now you can become more creative in things. Being in the arts lets you do more things in life. Being in the arts lets you

express felling and show efforts. The arts have showed me responsibility, discipline, and passion for the things to do.” - Alynna Barrera

- 1137) “I love coming to a school that is the school of the Performing Arts. I think having arts at my school because it helps the students not be that stress with the other class. I love having my dance class because we have a lot of fun learning new dances and new steps. This year I did my first homecoming half time show. I was really nerves at first but when we were there ready to perform I was super excited at the end of the performance. I felt really good because there was people screaming, clapping, and it looked like they enjoyed they show. Also my dance helps be not be that stress in my other classes because when I get to the class I feel happy and excited to learn and more because our spring dance concert is coming up. I think the arts shouldn’t get taken away because it makes many students happy and helps them learn how to play an instrument, learn how to draw, or dance.” - Citlally Gallcirido
- 1138) “When I first begin the dance program at my old middle school, CVM, I was in 7th grade. I did have prior dance experience before entering the program (SCPA). My mom first talked me into joining dance, because originally, I wanted to do drama, however, I joined dance and it grew to be a passion of mine. Not only dance, but the other arts as well. Drama, orchestra, band, art, choir, guitar, etc. Having so many electives to choose from made me realize how many kids shared the same love for the arts as I did. With so many electives offered, I learned many things from them as well. It taught me not only technique, but life lessons as well. I learned several things, and improved on many things additionally. Being that my mom was also in the SCPA program. It inspired me in so many ways to know that my mom, aunts, and uncles were involved in this wonderful art program, it made me realize that this programs should be continued on. “ – Grace Malatse
- 1139) “The arts are important to me because it make me confident, it fun, make me a better person, and teach us many thing we need in life. It make me confident because when we perform in stage with many people in stage. I met so many great people in dance class I have great teachers teaching us and it really fun and we have many great memories as a class. My dance teacher has taught me so many things that can help me in life, like, discipline, responsibility, creative, courage, and many other important thing without dance I will not have met so many people. Dance is the only reason I come to dance.”
- 1140) “The arts are very important to me. Being a dancer has brought me so much more then I thought it would. Some people think, Oh they’re all talented that’s why they’re dancers or you have to be a good at dancing to be a dancer. When I started dancing I know nothing about dance except it looks so fun. It took way much more effort to be a dancer then being naturing would make me who I am today but it did. Dance allows you to express yourself more than anything. When I am dancing I try to have the best technique I can to execute something. That is kind of how life is. When you are trying to achieve your goals you are trying to get somewhere in your life, and little by little along the way you have do everything you can to make it work. But, it will only happen if you make it happen and you are striving toward it every step of the way. Dance makes me happy because I know that no matter what, you are always getting somewhere once you get on your feet. Dance has made me who I am today from making me a disciplined, responsible person to making me confident and giving me happiness. I am sure that everyone in the arts program at our school feels the same way. The arts will always influence us to be determined and do everything with purpose in your life.” – Mina Mendoza
- 1141) “Hi, my name is Alexas Skipper and here are a few reasons why the arts are important to me. The arts are very important to me. The arts are very important to me because they give me away to express myself. When I dance, I can be myself and just let go of all of the stress I have in my life. When I come to dance, I’m surrounded by people just like me and they make me feel so happy. Throughout my years in the arts program, I’ve met so many new people/friends and I’ve figured out what I want to accomplish in life. Before I joined the arts in middle school I didn’t really know what I wanted to do with my life but this program helped me figure everything out. The arts have taught me so many skills and lessons that I will take with me into the real world. Dance has taught me to be passionate about everything I do, discipline, responsibility creativity, dedication, team work, and the list could go on forever but to sum it up dance has been a huge part of my life and without it I wouldn’t know how to go on. Besides the ballet training, dance has been apart of it and without it my life would fall into pieces.” – Alexas Skipper
- 1142) “The arts are important to me because they are something I love to do. Dancing has always been something I wanted to do as a kid but I never had a chance to go to outside of school dance classes. Once I got into Chula Vista Middle School I realized there was free everyday dance classes. I got into dance and ever since then I am

glad dance is an everyday activity I do. Arts shows you how to have responsibility as a young adult and discipline.” - Briana Lua

- 1143) “The arts are important to me because it’s the one period in the day where I’m in a room with classmates who are interested in exploring their creativity. I absolutely love the arts, if there wasn’t arts I wouldn’t enjoy school or life. Ever since I was little I saw myself as being a creator. I love everything involved with the arts, exploring your creativity, talent, and inner complexity. I’ve been dancing for about 3 years now and the people I have meet along the way are people that I will never forget. With dancing I also enjoy singing and acting. At my school I have the wonderful opportunity of being in a musical that requires singing, dancing and acting. My goal is to be the best well rounded performer I can be. The skills I learn in dance will definitely help me in succeeding in the career I choose. If not full time performer I might like to be a writer or journalist traveling to different places and writing about the things I see and the people I meet. The arts allow me to be creative which helps me in my writing and how I interact and communicate with other people. Things like rehearsals every day till 6:15 after school and 9-5 on Saturdays and not being able to go to the movies afterschool or on the weekends because I have to practice my dance or my lives are the sacrifices I have learned to make. The arts come with many sacrifices but it’s all worth it if your doing what you love. That’s what the arts mean to me.” – Dayana Dasher
- 1144) “I came to Chula Vista Middle because of dance. I didn’t know anyone at the school. When I entered that class, I felt excited and happy. I came having barely any knowledge of dance. As we began ballet I remembered thinking this is so nice. I learned so many things from dance. Not only did I learn different dance techniques and skills, but I learned to become more determined, polite, payed more attention, multitasking, and really using your brain. I learned more life lessons that any other class. You also get so many opportunities to become a real dancer. Some Saturday s, we would take workshops at Chula Vista High. There were many different genres of dance that we would learn by professionals. Such as, aztec dance, rhythm, flamenco, zumba, and more. In dance class, when we had performances, we didn’t have to pay for the costumes and Ms. Norriss helped us a lot. In high school, homecoming was amazing. There was so much work and effort put into the show. I remember dancing on that field with other amazing dancers around me. Overall, dance is a huge part of my life, and without it I wouldn’t be here.” – Cecilia Hernandez
- 1145) “The arts are important to me because it has made me try new things, and its what I love to do. The arts have given me many more opportunities and have made me get more friendships with people that have the same passion as me. My favorite part of the arts is that we get to perform in front of others which makes others realize that they should try out the arts. I have learned many new things in the arts since I started performing in 4th grade. The arts are very important because I plan on being in arts for a very long time.”
- 1146) “Why the arts are important to me explains a lot. Art is what makes us students special. Some people may not realize but it feels like a greater impact than what it sounds like. It defines and build students in the SCPA. Without it we won’t be the artist, the actors, the dancers that people look for. It prepares the future performers to succeed. Students learn responsibility, discipline, and themselves. SCPA is a huge part to Chula Vista High School and with not art or creativity our school name could mean nothing. Theater dance made me a better person than I was 4 years ago. I’m involved in something that I love, it’s just a huge part of m life and I want it like that for the rest of it. Students are proud to say I’m a performer. Anyone would but without the Arts who would we be? That is why the arts are important to me and everyone in it. It makes who you are true and complete.” - Nia Michelle Johnson
- 1147) “The arts are important to me because it gives me amazing opportunity to do what I love to do best, dance. I’ve been dancing since I was 3 and I’ve fallen in love with it. At that time I only had experience of dancing hula, Tahitian, and yes belly dancing from 3-10 years of age. When I had to start thinking about middle school I starting thinking and figuring out that to be a good dancer it is good to have experience in all generas of dance so when I heard Chula Vista Middle had a program where I got to learn tap, jazz and ballet I jumped at the opportunity this has improved my dancing ability and skill miraculously I am still improving as I go to the arts and without it, I’d have nothing. Dancing makes me truly happy. Without it I’d be nothing.” – Vivianna Torres
- 1148) “The arts are important to me because it helps me show who I am and I am able to show my creativity. It also is something I love to do I would hope that I still get to do it everyday as I do now. The arts have also taught me many important things like now to be responsible. Without the arts my life wouldn’t be pretty boring. I would have to figure out something else to enjoy.” – Yuiana Sanchez

- 1149) “The arts are very important to me for many reasons. Growing up I was very shy and I’ve grown to be an amazing confident person. I love doing what I do because it makes me very happy. I enjoy teaching my youngest niece who’s two, all the things we learned in ballet. She’s shown such love for the art. I believe the arts are important because by learning discipline I can apply it to my everyday life.”
- 1150) “The arts are a very big part of who I am, and who my sisters are. We have all gone to SCPA and followed each other’s footsteps in the journey to becoming a dancer. It has given me characteristic traits that may not have had if I never joined SCPA. The arts and being a dancer have given me confidence and taught me to break out of my shell I once had. The arts bring so much happiness not only to me but to everyone watching, to everyone involved, and to everyone that has the arts as their passion. The arts have given me the opportunity to meet so many amazing people and have great friends. Being in the arts, I am constantly surrounded by people and have great friends. Being in the arts, I am constantly surrounded by people with the same interests as me, and being able to share that hobby is such a great opportunity made available to me. The arts have not only given me useful characteristic; it has become a way for me to relieve stress and escape the world and my problems. Dancing alone in my room or making choreography to a song I love blocks me from my worries. I get to focus on dancing and feeling I get from dancing. Even being in dance class brings me a sense of relaxation. Although dancing, learning combinations, or learning choreography can be very frustrating, once I understand it and am able to perform it, it feels so, so good. Sometimes I feel like the arts and dancing are the only thing I have going for me. Whether or not that’s a bad thing, I’m appreciative for the efforts Ms. Jaime, Ms. N, Ms. Norriss and Ms. Ingram have put in helping improve all the dancers and in creating amazing shows. I’m so grateful for everything those teachers have taught me. All these reasons prove that fact that the arts are incredibly important to me. I can truly say that I am in love with dancing thanks to everything that I have been able to experience and learn.” - Natalee Ochoa
- 1151) “When I was in elementary, I was already in a program similar to the SCPA. It was called the VPA. Here, kids in the 4th, 5th, & 6th grade who wanted to dance, sing, draw, & basically perform. After my 6th year was over, I heard Chula Vista Middle School had something similar to VPA, they had SCPA. There were so many electives to choose from. It amazed me b/c it showed how many kids had passion for the arts. Even though I chose dance as my elective, I was still so fond of all the other electives. Therefore, I supported the other ones. The arts aren’t something you can just take away from these kids, or us. It affected all of our lives, for the better. In some way the SCPA have made us more responsible & more organized & will continue to help us develop in the future.” – Cielo Ortega
- 1152) “The arts are important to me because it has taught me discipline. Dance is important to me in many ways. From personal experience I can say it has been a great way to relieve stress, meet new people, and learn how to dance.”
- 1153) “The arts are important to me because they have showed me how to have responsibility, discipline, and passion for what I love to do. The arts have given me many opportunities such as colleges, workshops and performing at concerts. The arts have showed me to be more creative and I’ve learned what performance consists of. Learning how to keep all of my costumes together and knowing what time exactly to be on stage was a very good life lesson, of discipline.” – Juanita Lopez
- 1154) “The only reason I attend Chula Vista high school is for the arts, specifically dance. When my mom was my age, she went to this school as well did dance. I started dancing in middle school and learned quite a lot of life skills that have still stuck w/me. Miss Norris (middle school/high school dance teacher) & Ms. Jaime (middle school/high school dance teacher) have taught me responsibility. With being handed costumes & props comes w/having a lot of responsibility. Taking care of the costumes & props may come as common sense, but it is more work than it sounds. Besides all the work it is worth the out-come. Performing our dances we practice for weeks is the funnest thing. Homecoming 2015 was the best thing I have experienced. The outcome was the best. All the effort the dance teachers put into the production was worth it. I’m very appreciative of every dance teacher & what they have done for me and taught me. I couldn’t be anymore grateful for having dance in my life.”
- 1155) “The arts are very important to me because it gives us an opportunity to learn and practice many genres or dance five days a week for no cost. Most of the times a private class is very pricey and this program provides a great opportunity. I chose to come to this school because the SCPA program and I know most of the people in this program and they also come to this school because of the arts. The SCPA program isn’t available at most schools so it is a rare and excellent opportunity for anyone interested in the arts. The arts are very important to

me because they have allowed me to stay here at this school. For anyone who is interested in dance should take in consideration.” – Daniela Juarez

- 1156) “The arts are important to me because it lets me try new things. For example dance, I love it because I learn something new all the time. My favorite part about this art is learning new choreography and performing it in front of an audience. The arts are important to me because it lets me do what I love to do everyday. I understand clearly the meaning of each genre. An opportunity that arts have given me is choreographing my own routines and performing at Homecoming Halftime show. The arts give me an opportunity to express myself + be creative.” – Kaelanie Banuelos
- 1157) “The arts are important to me because I started out in 4th grade. I know others may have started when they were younger but my elementary school Mendoza was the school that introduced me to the arts. In 4th grade I was accepted in the V.P.A (Visual and Performing Arts) which I was able to stay in until 6th grade ended. There I learned lots of different ways to sing and do art. I also learned the basics of dance. This really became a big part of my life to where I was said to leave elementary. I knew I wanted to carry on in Dance. So then I did SCPA Dance in Chula Vista Middle School. Here they taught me discipline and respect. They expanded my knowledge and technique in dance. Now that I am in high school my learning will keep on expanding and so will my technique. High school has been encouraging me to find a college right for me the dance department took me to a field trip where dancers performed and inspired me to go to the best college for dance and to also go to the best college for medicine so that’s why the arts are very important to me.” – Alyssa Herrera
- 1158) “The arts are important to me because it not only improves my technique in dancing but also helps me be a better person. It has taught me to be responsible, and very creative as well. To me dance is the way I express my feeling’s using different types of movement. My dance classmates and dance teachers are like family. But most importantly it helps me and motivates me to do better. In school and get good grades because in order to be in the SCPA. You have to have good grades and there’s a lot of competition so it helps me improve in many different ways. I know I can count in anybody at the dance classes. This whole experience has been amazing I’m fortunate to be in such an incredible program. Our performances are done well and costumes are very unique. As my years of high school pass by I always look forward to my dance classes. When I graduate I know that’s what I’m mostly gonna miss.” – Shantal Ibarra
- 1159) “The arts are important to me because it gives me something to look forward to each and every single day. The arts has been through out history for the past who knows how many centuries from dancing, to art, & even a musical instrument. But each single activity is special to every single individual. Having the opportunity to do something you enjoy to do every sing day is something us students appreciate. The arts teacher us to become dependent with ourselves & people skills for the future. It also makes us very happy to see how fortunate we are to receive free classes, free costumes, & really good teachers. Through the arts, we can show our inner self into something we enjoy doing.” – Jenniffer Lopez
- 1160) “The arts are important to me because its what I love to do. I get to learn new things and I got to make new friends. Performing in general is so fun. I’ve been performing since 4th grade and I don’t perform shows and acts anymore. I perform dances. I started to love dancing in middle and I’m now in high school and I’m looking forward to going to college. I had many opportunities from middle to highschool being SCPA dance. I got to perform at the homecoming highs chool football’s halftime show. Performing in front of an audience is fun and I feel makes the audience want to do the arts as well. I love the arts.”
- 1161) “The arts are important to me because not only is it a way to express yourself, but and opportunity to enter a whole new world. I learned from being in middle school that dancing is a beautiful art. Whenever I had a bad day I went to dance and automatically felt happier because to me dancing is an escape from all my problems. Whenever I’m about to perform. I get this feeling that radiates through my body and makes me happy. I have definitely learned discipline from dancing because whenever I get a costume handed to me I know that I have to be careful with it. I’ve also learned that I can be a beautiful dancer as long as I’m determined and have as long as I’m determined and have the passion to keep on doing it. That’s why dancing is a huge part of my life, it let me be myself. But an even better version because I have passion and determination.” – Karla Alvarez
- 1162) “The arts are important to me because it gives me a chance to be creative and have confidence. I’ve been taking dance for a year and a half-going on two- at Chula Vista High School. Dance is almost like a language that is spoken all around the world. Being in the SCPA I’m able to create my own piece and perform it in front of my

peers. The shows we put on here are spectacular and I feel honored to be graduating from this school in five months.” – Sophia Sporman

- 1163) “In High School we take different classes however, us who take arts related it’s more than just a class for us. Dance has been a really important part of my life. It’s amazing how we have so much fun doing what we love to do. Those shows we do, and the comment that people make about them. Homecoming halftime show, winter and spring concert. We learn so much of our brilliant teachers. Not only dance related but also things that are needed daily. We learn how to be responsible by having our uniforms everyday. How to be on time everyday. More than anything we learn how to never give up and always try your best on everything you do.”
- 1164) “The arts are important to me because they have brought a big impact to my life. I started off my freshman year with no SCPA classes. I wasn’t brought up in an “artsy” household, so I had no idea about music, soundtech, or dance. Entering my sophomore year I decided to give dance a shot after watching our annual Homecoming Halftime Show. I was mesmerized by how much thought, effort, and time went into the show that I wanted to become part of that. I also fell in love with the winter and spring dance concerts. I am now in my senior year and its sad to realize that this whole experience is almost over in a couple of months. Being in dance has truly gave me a sense of responsibility as you need to make sure your on time to your call time and to not loose your costume and props.” -Maxine Gomez
- 1165) “I have been dancing for almost 8 years now, and dance has taken a big role in my life since then. I have fell in love with it, and I’m not sure where I’d be without it. If it wasn’t for Chula Vista High School having the SCPA, I probably wouldn’t have attended this school. I made sure that my choice of high school and middle school would offer me a chance to do what I loved. I’m glad dance is offered as an elective at some public schools because taking private dance classes outside of school affects allot of my schedule and also is allot of money. Dance, Drama, Music, can teach you so many things. Dance has taught me to be self discipline with myself, I have learned that if ya want something you have to work for it. Drama has given me so many communication skills and has taught me to be self confident in myself. The arts are all skill builders, and can take ya a long way.” – Irais Estrada
- 1166) “The arts are important to me because it can be a way to relieve stress. They can give you an opportunity for someone to express them selves in a different way. Arts could also provide experiences one wouldn’t be offered with out art. From personal experience I can say that dance has given me many amazing opportunities to participate in the Halftime Show, as well to dance concerts. I can honestly say that dance has been apart of my high school years and it is something I would never forget.” – Clarissa Zuniga
- 1167) “Dance is a universal language that gives a solid foundation to other athletic preferences. Depending when you start your dance journey, the experience you have helps you improve athletic abilities. We have ballet, tap, and jazz. These genres each help when you are exercising. Not only does it give you a foundation to work with when exercising but it helps mature you into an adult. There’s many discipline actions that can be followed in the outside world.” – Viktoria Camacho
- 1168) “The arts are important to me because it’s a way that teach me how life is not always about technology there are different arts. I’ve dance for 2 years and my teacher have encourage and teach me how to be good students. Dance has showed me responsibility, creativity, detail. One of the different things that I noticed are different from my other electives this class helps you to see other side what I mean creativeness that you have but you never thought you had. Dance is a unforgettable theory that knew one can change.”
- 1169) “Attending Chula Vista High School and being a part of the SCPA Program has allowed me to grow and mature as an artist. Dance has given me so many special opportunities to be creative and express the person who I want to become. In my view dance brings people from all walks of life together to create something spectacular and brings many communities together. Therefore the stage is the canvas while the dancers are the artists. I am so very grateful to be apart of a school that both promotes and encourages students to be apart of the performing arts to benefit the students as well as our community.” – Marbella Rocha
- 1170) “Chula Vista High School the arts are important to me because dance presents freedom, discipline, manners. It gives you the opportunity to express yourself in what your good with and what you like, it helps to see who you really are. I love showing to the audience what skills I have and I love the feeling of being able to show dances. What I like the most is learning new thing that I didn’t know I could do & getting exited.”

- 1171) “Never would I have thought how much dance would mean to me. Chula Vista High School, the school of creative performance arts, has given me an opportunity that has taught me more than any other education class could. Dance has taught me discipline, has given me life lessons and has given me a work ethic transperable to all my other classes. Time after time. Studies have shown that Arts are important. Important to our education, our self esteem and our livelihood. Dance to me is a fun break from school. It is a break that helps me regenerate and refuel in order to carry on with the day. Getting rid of the arts would be an abomination. It would break many hearts, myself included. Getting rid of the arts is limiting the world.” - Rebecca Peyro
- 1172) “The arts have kept me occupied aside from my school work. I am in Jazz, Tap, and Ballet. It helps me get my minds off of things and opens up opportunities. Gives me oppotunities like performing at schools and being able to go into the work community of performing. Not only does it help with opportunities but it’s also helping with discipline. How to be on time and wearing the right attire. Also to respect others when they’re talking and to understand that different people have different abilities and to respect that. The arts has made my high school years a thousand times better.”
- 1173) “I am a teenager with a lot of energy and I think dancing is the only thing in which I can truly express myself, my emotions. All my life I thought I’d become a singer, that is until I had my first dance class. Dancing is in my blood, heart, and soul. I know I was born to dance. I love creating choreography on my free time and during class. Our dance uniforms teach responsibility and discipline. Dancing is an amazing form of art. I’d love to persue a career as a dancer and it is something I’ll be doing all my life.” – Jonathan Ferguson
- 1174) “The arts is important to me because it teaches me great communication and performance skills. It teaches me responsibility and discipline. Dance is also very important to me because it’s a way to escape when I dance all my worries and problems etc. It all goes away. Dance is a way to express myself through movement through the music. When I dance I feel this rush of self confidence. Dance is very important to me because this is what I wanna do in the future and dance at the school is a great and amazing way to start/help me with my career.” - Yalaira De Leon
- 1175) “The arts are very important to me because being a senior here in Chula Vista High School and attending the SCPA has really helped me a lot not only with myself, but also in life overall. By being part of the dance department here in Chula Vista High School I have learned how to be more confident, and it has helped me be able to express myself. Also, dance has really helped me try new things in life such as getting a job because it help me feel good about myself. Besides this, I feel that by being part of dance it has helped me be more concentrated in school, and get better grades. Dance has also taught me to be more independent and be on time to places such as school or work. I have realized that dance has really helped me grow as a person and I will definitely be considering dancing in college.”- Samantha Sanchez
- 1176) “With all the academic course that one has to take throughout their school years the arts give students a way to truly express themselves. It acts as an outlet to not just the creativity of a student but also the stress brought upon the school day. Personally I started as a band major at Chula Vista Middle School, Chula Vista High School. Then band was my outlet to the stress of my AP classes and even the regular class, which brought extra stress. Alongside with that band taught me valuable lessons which I will have with me the rest of my life, such as a band major but toward the end of my sophomore year I realized that band was not really my passion but rather it was dancing. Now being my first year in dance I have the privilege to take dance as well as band was/is the reason, the main reason, why I stand up from bed in the morning and go to school. Dance is essentially the highlight of my day. Arts are important to the student body. I can assure you that it was important to me.” - Aaron Barrera
- 1177) “Dance, Drama, Choir, Band, Orchestra, Folklorico, Computer Art – each is a type of art. In schools, students receive a free education in one or more of these subjects. But one might ask, why do we even need arts? Arts are extremely important especially in schools since they provide students with so much opportunity. To begin with, students receive a valuable education- for free! In dance alone, they are learning technique, styles of dance, and creativity. Not to mention self-confidence and proper poise and behavior. Most people who want this type of education end up paying a ton of money for only several classes a week. We are getting this education everyday and without cost! The teachers also care enough to provide workshops and make field trips happen. In class, our teachers are constantly taking time to stop and fix our foot technique, or help us get a leap or combination. They are always giving of their time and effort and always thinking of us. That type of caring and education is hard to find anywhere else. However, the arts need help. Arts are often underestimated and not valued as much as science. But science without art is worthless. Arts give life passion and a fire we can’t get from other subjects. And arts have been proven to develop a person’s mind in ways science and technology can’t. My teachers are

always scraping for money and needing more resources. Our teachers are so devoted to their subjects and care about us so much, it's not fair to them. We need arts, and that's why we need to fund them and help our students thrive. We need arts since they give us confidence they help us develop and grow. They keep us physically and mentally strong. They are why I come to school. To dance, perform, be free, and feel more like myself! That's why are important to me!" – Meghan Melody

- 1178) "The arts aren't important to me. I don't like arts because its too complicated, and I'm not good at it." – Maximus Abasolo
- 1179) "Art is important to me because of music. Without music I feel like I can't express my self. Music is all around the world. That's why art is important to me." – Samirah Sandoval
- 1180) "The arts are important to me because art is fun and an easy way to relax. Another reason is that art is somewhere where you can just let your ideas flow. One last reason is that is because art is not judgemental." – Angel
- 1181) "For 3 years I've been involved with the SCPA program in Chula Vista High. My major Piano, has given me one of best experience in my high school career. I'm very appreciative for the opportunity to be enrolled in an elective such as this one. As a Spartan I would be very grateful that the future students have this program so they too can have an amazing experience as I did."
- A Chula Vista Spartan
P.S. Music Engineering is also super fun!
- 1182) "Drama is important to me because starting freshman year I didn't really know what to expect. In the first week I was already leading and speaking in front of the class. I was able to say and do things without the fear of being judged or laughed at by my peers. Once our first show was coming around I was excited but I was only a freshman going up against upper classmen for the lead role. I was obviously nervous but I had gained confidence through drama class. I learned that we need to build friendships and trust with one another or else we won't be very successful. Through VAPA I have learned many life lessons that I will carry with me through the years to come. This class has helped me a lot with classes outside of drama. When I had to do presentation in a different class, I felt comfortable and spoke clearly. Through drama I also learned how to present myself and speak in a proper manner. Although these are many positive things to this class, I experienced a lot of stress, which was expected. I learned when and where not to speak. In our last production I personally had three costume changes, so that taught me how to do something efficiently in a short period of time." Alexandra Morineau, MOH
- 1183) "Drama is important to us because it helps us get open to people. This class is important because it shows us that we can be ourselves around the people, also not to be frightened when we have to be on stage we can give it our all. This class showed me how to have respect towards others also how to have your friends back no matter what even if they do something embarrassing. This class had inspired us in many ways that you can't even explain. The fun things that we had learned were responsible things in a really fun way." Esmeralda F. & Shelsea Stanley
- 1184) "My partner and I believe that VAPA is very important to schools because it allows students to express themselves through art, music, theatre, etc. My partner has learned to communicate awesomely throughout drama. I think he needs to shut up at times. Because of drama I have learned to express myself without feeling embarrassed. In theatre I have learned that it's all about respect and having confidence. In drama we have developed a new family."-Alexander Jaffe & Natalie Muñoz
- 1185) "Drama is an important class because it's a class where you don't need to take tests or have homework but instead it's a class where you are free to act how you want and you are able to be yourself and express yourself in a way you can't do in a classroom/ Students are free to act crazy and be loud and get an A for it. Students make new friends and become more confident in themselves and are able to try new things. They never thought they would do. Students break out of their shells and become a whole new person. A more happy and confident person. They're able to have their fun and exciting memories in these classes. Every school wouldn't be the same without them. School is meant to guide and help people find out who they are and without these classes people would be lost."-Dominique Gomez & Jesse Castorena
- 1186) "I have been in the VAPA program for 10 years. Band for 8 years and Drama for 2. I will be writing about my experiences as a drama student. My first year I was a lead role as "Mr. Hale" in the Crucible play. And in the

second play (same year) I directed the Chicano Park play. My 2nd year I directed our last production and acted plus did make-up. Dealing with that stress, that pressure showed me how to effectively do a task within a short period. Also, since we didn't have student directors directing the rehearsals, It was hard for me to "off the bat" direct and entire production. This also showed me how to hold back and when to fully show what I feel. Eventually, after all is done and done, people may not recognize your efforts, but I felt proud of what I was able to accomplish in such a short time. All these things, plus come more, help me when having to work with others, work in a professional settings, and many other situations."-Brian De La Cruz

- 1187) "Drama is important because it allows us to be ourselves. Drama lets us have fun and forget about all the other classes. Also it lets us relieve our stress and slows us to hang out with people. Before I entered drama I did not think that it would be fun but now as the days go by I look forward to going to class. Class is really entertaining and helps us enhance our communication skills. I think it helps us be less shy and awkward."-Daniel Sahagun
- 1188) "Drama is important for me because I made friends and because it's really fun to hang out. And Mrs. Arellano is really cool." -Catherine H.
- 1189) "Drama is important because it helps you improve in many ways, for example to speak up and you make new friends."-Rosaylianna G.
- 1190) "Drama is important to me because it helped me not be shy and express my self in another way. It has let me gain friends invite friends and become close to people. Helped me learn how to trust people and just being happiness to my day. With out VAPA we wouldn't have drama without drama we wouldn't have an amazing teacher without an amazing teacher we wouldn't be able to express our self in scenes to do a hobby we love and enjoy the time we have here." We love every moment here <3."-Rebecca G & Vanessa L.
- 1191) "Drama is important because you get to be someone else for even a slight second of the day. No matter how bad your day is. You can always count on drama, or the visual and performing arts in general, to make you feel better. We live in a world where everywhere we turn, everywhere we look, and everywhere we go, the arts surround us. What would be our nights without music? Our museums without paintings? Our films without actors? Earth without art is just "eh" and a life that's just "eh" isn't worth living. It adds a splash of color to our black and white mind and a little magic to our lives."-Carolyn Rafael & Valeria Mendez
- 1192) "I enjoy drama a lot. It gives me an opportunity to escape my shell and other pressures along with stress from other classes and my own life. Drama is a perfect class to have fun and meet new people and make friends. I also like drama because you can escape a little from the outside world and be happy."-Abel Lopez & Daniel Gonzalez
- 1193) "Drama is important to us because is really such a funny and good class, it makes you feel good like at if your on your house. It takes away if your feeling down like if your stressed gets away from you. Drama is like second home to us because its fun, there's fun activity's. In drama we'll all have eachothers back, respect each other, you make new friends. All electives like Drama are important because our going to learn something new from it. Like in drama you learn different types of acting letting out your shyness, and to be your own person and have fun in drama #onlyindrama."-Samantha Agundez & Damaris Trujillo
- 1194) "Drama is important to us because we get to show our emotions in different ways. Drama and any kind of visual and performing arts is important to have because it's how many students can express themselves and learn about others feelings and come out of their shells if they're shy."-Luis Paulin & Paola Heredia
- 1195) "Drama is important to us because we get to learn how to be creative, we get to meet new people. It is important because we get more confidence and we do a lot of activities, we get to learn how to act and the most important thing in Drama is teamwork."-Daniela Lopez
- 1196) "Drama is an important Visual and Performing Art for the school to have. It's taught me how to be more social with others. This class has caused me to meet new people I never would have became friends with. Overall Drama helps with life skills."-Ardy Fieber & Eduardo Limon
- 1197) "Drama is important to me because it makes me feel at home and helps me develop important life skills. I used to be a very shy, quiet person but drama has helped me get over this. I am now able to easily express myself and speak without stuttering. Drama helped me with that during our last performance when I had to speak as fast as possible while being loud and pronouncing every word. I would not be able to do anything like that without the

help of drama. Drama also teaches trust and respect, you have to be able to trust and respect the people you work with. Everyone in drama is or has become trustworthy and respectful. All of these are important things to have, being respectful, self confident, trustworthy and speaking to people under stress are all skill needed in life for things like job interviews. Drama teaches skills necessary for life.”-Ryan Dutra

- 1198) “Drama is important to me because you learn a lot of life skills and responsibilities you are taught how to express yourself in different ways you make tons of new friends who have a lot in common with you. It helps you get out of your comfort zone you do activities that encourage you to be yourself and have fun. You get to meet incredible, happy people that won’t judge you and will have your back.”-Natalya & Karla Roldan
- 1199) “Drama for us is a place where you can be yourself. Drama has helped me to be more open considering that I’m a shy person. Also it’s helped my partner with the diction of English and by talking to other people who talk English its helped him develop his English. Arts in general helps people, kids, to express themselves in a way that they can’t with words. The arts, drama, I feel helps build trust among kids, it was helped us bond with teens we’ve never known before. Drama or the arts in general also help teen, kids, with rough patches or problems they have at home or during school. If you take these arts away kid with problem will have more trouble coming forward about them which could cause more trouble. Drama, if you take drama away people would never know the amazing people there are in their classes + would never have the trust and like our motto: we’ve got each others backs.”-Alberto Bayardo & Jenny Miranda
- 1200) “Drama has made an impact in our lives, because we have been given the opportunity. To express ourselves in many different ways. We do different activities to help us get comfortable and meet new people. We get to be ourselves and act silly with our friends.”-Stephanie Perfecto & Ariana Sanchez & Jocelyn Alarcon
- 1201) “Drama is significant to us because it teaches us responsibility and respect. It taught me responsibility when I was helping to sell tickets for our play. That made me get an idea of what it would be like to have a job in sales. It teaches respect because in class we all get the chance to express ourselves and everyone respects each other while doing so. Our first and most important rule is respect and that is a value we need in everything such as schools, life, and jobs.”-Lizette Machado & Carlos Lopez
- 1202) “Art is important to me because I think it inspires me and makes me calm. I think Art is a big part of a lot of peoples life.” – John Red
- 1203) “I believe art is important (by the way to myself) because in all different types of art most people is how they express their feelings. Most art is very important because its also culture. Art is the way people feel and some people relate.” – Joana Valentin
- 1204) “I think that art is important because it can help me imagine more and develop more stuff that I didn’t know. Another thing is that is important and enjoyable, and it helps me relief my stress.”
- 1205) “Art is important to me because it helps me to get away from stress and to be creative. I also love art because its fun and I get to show what I feel in my drawings. Art is also my favorite subject in school because we paint, draw, and we active.” – Alex Cruz
- 1206) “Art is important to me because I really enjoy drawing. When I’m bored I usually start drawing and don’t stop for a while. That’s why art is important to me.” – Juan
- 1207) “I believe arts are important to me because, it is a way of expressing emotions. When I dance, hear music or even draw. I feel like if I was small once again and didn’t have anything to worry about. Art is a good way of relaxing of being stress free. I mostly dance and that what I look forward to everyday. Sometime I don’t feel like coming to school but I remember I have dance practice and I’ll go. Arts are ways to get away from any problems you have.” – Jackeline Escobar
- 1208) “Art is important to me because it can show how the artist is feeling, I believe in “art tells 1000 words”. Your life would be dull & boring, it separates us from the machine, it gives us emotion & feel emotion.” – Errida Santos
- 1209) “Art is important to me because it help me to have different perspective about something because in art a drawing can have a lot of significance.” – Vanessa Romero

- 1210) "Art is important to me because it helps me and I learn more things and it helps me with some art things that I don't know and it moves me to." – Arlene Gamboa
- 1211) "Art is important to me because it teaches how you could draw or paint what your feeling and how you can show your mood by colors too."
- 1212) "To me, art is my getaway to my own world of imagination. It's like a breakpoint to reality. I am able to dear my mind and disappear for a moment. Drifting away from problems into a universe which I could create whatever my mind can think of. Drawing gives me purpose. Art is not just a passion for me but rather than a challenge. A challenge which pushes me to test my boundaries. Through this twisted world, I see art as a latter to the soul of humanity and the world we live in. Art allows for people to communicate and express between each other. I guess, what I'm trying to say is that Art is fun. There are many styles and possibilities that an illustration can show. That I which learn them myself. I will dedicate myself to art for as long as I live." – Oscar Chavez
- 1213) "For me art is important because it's a way for me to express my feelings and thoughts and since I'm not a type of person that talks very much, its perfect for me. In addition I like to see art as a universal language because that every person worldwide connects in a similar way to a piece of art." – Jesus H.
- 1214) "I believe arts are important to me because, it is a way of expressing emotions. When I dance, hear music or even draw I feel like if I was small once again and didn't have anything to worry about. Art is a good way of relaxing of being stress free. I mostly dance and that what I look forward to every day. Sometimes I don't feel like coming to school but I remember I have dance practice and I'll go. Arts are ways to get away from any problems you have." – Jackeline Escobar
- 1215) "Art is important to me because it help us express what we can't in words. Art also help me think of something else other than schoolwork so practically it distracts/relaxes. Lastly art is something everyone likes and enjoy." – Veronica Ochoa
- 1216) "Arts is important to me because it could benefit your work or activity to your future. You could work what you have learned. Art can be very helpful because you could become an artist and paint what art means to you. And I need the credit too." – Rosa Arevano
- 1217) "Art is important to me to call down and relax and to very creative and also talk to my friends."
- 1218) "Arts is important because you can learn how to draw in many different ways it is also important because you can show what you know about arts."
- 1219) "Arts are important to me because they make me stay youthful. Even though I'm only the age of 14, I have the need to draw to have the creativity of a 5 year old. I need arts to give me ideas for writing because it gets my mind off the topic for a while, but keeps me occupied. Art is also important to me because it's the only thing that makes me bond with myself." – Angelica Garcia
- 1220) "The arts are important to me, because I believe that arts are the biggest and best form self-expression. Even you don't make the art, if you don't sing or if you don't paint/draw, the art you like expresses or shows people who you are. Do I make sense." – Vianey Gomez
- 1221) "The arts, music is important to me. Music makes me happy. Also it says many truths. Music just makes my days and it's important to me, makes me happy." – Ximena Valdez
- 1222) "They are important because you express yourself w/it." – Irvin Castillo
- 1223) "Arts is important to me because I like to draw different type of things and make stuff." – Jose Castaneda
- 1224) "Dance to me is like Art which is important to me because I'm able to express myself when I'm stressed and learn different things each time. Well for Art I love to draw so, that's why I'm taking this class. Both Dance and Art are a way too show others the way you feel and because I love to Dance." – Bianca Gurrola
- 1225) "Art relaxes me and clams me down and takes of stress that I have." – Arturo Cancino

- 1226) "Art is important to me because it gives me a way to express myself in such ways that words won't let me."
- 1227) "Art is really not that important to me. Is just an easy credit and I need 1 year of an art class. So yeah art isn't that important in my life I'm just trying to graduate."
- 1228) "Art is important because it u can draw, u can paint too, if u can draw when your bored you have something to do instead of not doing anything. Also it is important because you can become a drawer if you like it." – Christian Bustos
- 1229) "Art is important because it lets people express themselves in a different way. Music and paintings make you feel emotions that you might not felt without music. Drama also lets you be a different person and you try to understand them and you connect with that character." – Rosa G.
- 1230) "Art is important because it helps us see other peoples views/perspectives on things and how they see the world, which in return helps us gain ideas and opinions on things." -Shav A.
- 1231) "Art is important because it gives objects color and character instead of having everything in the world blank and boring. Art is also important because it puts more interest in things." -Amber Sanchez
- 1232) "Art is important to me because I need this class in order to graduate high school." -Sofia Ramirez
- 1233) "Art is important to me because it stops me from being bored. I don't like making it but hearing it is fun. The only reason I'm taking it is because I need the credit."
- 1234) "Art is important to me because It's away to express your imagination to others. It connects every one who is able to see, because you don't have to now different languages to like it, it's an universal feeling. Plus even though I don't draw good enough, I like drawing."
- 1235) "Art is important to me because it is a way of expression. When ever I put work into art it relaxes me and can explore. Without art I wouldn't be able to do nail art. Most of the time I put my feeling into my art."
- 1236) "Art is important for me because it's a way that I can be me. So I can put my feelings, emotions, personality in a piece of artwork."
- 1237) "Art is important to me because I love Art and drawing something is awesome. Something like that or because is something, like a feeling but is indiscribable and its amazing feel that, is really, really awesome."
- 1238) "The arts are important to me because they make people realize that art really is. Art is like hearing an arpa play. Art can flow or it can crash be art people." – Josue Ramirez
- 1239) "Art is important to because it helps me relax. That's why I draw during my free time, since I also think that it's fun. Art is entertaining and it helps me be more creative. I'm not very creative and art teaches me how." – Hector Carbajal
- 1240) "The reason why I care about art is because I like to about people and the stories they tell by their art work."
- 1241) "Art helps me understand what is needed in an artwork when I am drawing for fun. It gives me ideas for another subject."
- 1242) "I think art is important because it is part of our culture. Many pieces have great historical value. It is passed down to later generations & helps them learn about what was going on at the time. Art is very similar to a book. Art can also serve as a way to express ourselves. Also I like it & it is fun." – Ricardo Beas
- 1243) "Art is important since it gives you a break from reality, it gives you a chance to do whatever you want. Art is also import because some people can't express themselves in words or actions so they express it in something they do."
- 1244) "I may not notice it a lot but Art is everywhere I go. From movies to video games, art is in a lot of things. Art is in many forms of entertainment. One of my favorite hobbies is to watch anime, and the animations from it is art."

Anime became a long part of my life when I was a freshman in high school. It made me get away from my boring life and put me in a new world.” – Dave Burn

- 1245) “Art is somewhat important to me because it helps relieve stress, relax, and it’s fun. Music is what helps me relieve stress and it fun trying to sing along to songs.” – Uziel Cassio
- 1246) “Art is very important to me it helped me get to my goal or at least will help me. I plan to go to film, I want to be famous brand name I want my clothes to be different from the rest. Art is also important to me because it helps me relax when I get really anxious.” – Priscilla Colmenares
- 1247) “To me, Art is a way to release your wild imagination. No matter how big or small it may be. Art is a way to show the distortion on reality based on how you see reality. I mean... Who wouldn’t want a snake with wings.” – Alexis Ramirez
- 1248) “Art is important by it being something that I can take time off other classes. It can also be important because it can show you how and what the old years where.” – Venus Padilla
- 1249) “Art is important to some people because they can get lost into what they do and takes down stress or it can just be fun to some.” – Raymond Wu
- 1250) “Visual and Performing arts soothes me and drawing my actually did bring me closer to reaching it.” – E. Flores
- 1251) “Art, I like it. I just enjoy drawing and coloring for fun. It is something that I am quite good at. I am by no means the best but I am quite good at it.” – Raul Benitez-Medina
- 1252) “Art is so important to me because I want to get better on drawing. Also cause it’s a fun activity and I like it. And maybe in the future I will be still continuing to draw and be better even if it’s hard. Also Drama is important to me to cause I could learn how to speak up and face stuff and not be shy no more. And also cause I’m a good actor.” – Abigail Rodriguez
- 1253) “Art is important in many ways, it sometimes shows how the person does his creativity. So other people can see what humans can create, or what they like to make. Some people do it for business, other just like to draw what they see, think, or hear.” – Jacob Contreras
- 1254) “I think art is important to some people because it expresses emotion, it connects you with people, it helps creativity/concentration, its relaxing, and beautiful. If sports are an art, the I love art more than anything.” – Emily Cortez
- 1255) “Art is important to me because I learn new thing about the art like the most important paints or the world, you can learn how to paint like the most famous persons.” – David Sanchez
- 1256) “I think that the art is important to me, because the art have many types of education, and because the art have things important to your life.” – Mendoza Dayarlen
- 1257) “Art is important because it a way for people to express themselves. Art also can be very calming for stress. Art can relax the brain after a long day. Art can also take someone on a journey to another world. Art can create beautiful things. This is why art is important.” – Lizbeth Rodriguez
- 1258) “Art is important because Mrs. Flow says so.” – Tyler Squiu
- 1259) “Art is fun and it distracts me from other boring classes. And I can draw my imagination and make it real. And I don’t know the end.” – Marcos Parra
- 1260) “I think art is important because it’s in everyday life.” – James
- 1261) “Art is important to me because I’m in Dance PE and I love to dance. It clears my mind.” – Evelyn Gastelon

- 1262) “Art is important to me for various reasons. First of all, it relaxes my nerves and makes time go by faster. As soon as the utensil I’m using to draw touches the paper, I disregard everything surrounding the paper and I. Secondly, art perceives the world in another matter, a creative way.” – Sarah Rodriguez
- 1263) “Art is important to me because it’s more relaxing to do art then in other classes. It gives you a chance to be creative in your work.” – Steven Smith
- 1264) “For me art is important because almost everything you can see in this world is art. It’s important because you can tell your life story just by making an art, you can express your feeling. Art is important because you can learn a lot of things.” – Martin Jay Mari
- 1265) “Visual and performing arts are necessary in school. All learning should be equal. Art class soothing and allows me to be creative where other classes do not. Some people want to be artist and if it is not offered in school how are they supposed to cultivate their skills and learn? I believe any profession could benefit from creativity.” – Damian Perez
- 1266) “Art can be deceiving in many ways. Many interpret it as purely entertainment or a hobby when in reality, it is much more than that. It teaches that artist to see the world differently, better somehow. To believe in the possibility of creating something filled with any emotion and feeling that will last forever. It is an escape from reality; that is why it’s important to me. - Joseline Sandoval
- 1267) “Art is important to me because it is a break from all my other classes where all we do is listen to the teacher talk. In art class we spend most of the time drawing and it is relaxing and great way to start my day.” – Yuliana Martinez
- 1268) “The reason that it’s very important for me is to graduate from high school, I need to get a good goal. I need a great career for me and to get money, so that will me very happy and also my family.” – Kelly Ramirez
- 1269) “Art is important because it lets you express your feeling. Also so you can be more relax and calm. – Osvaldo Pena
- 1270) “Art is important to me because you can draw your imagination on a piece of paper. You can draw your emotions on what your going through in life makes others see a picture & makes you feel like your in the picture makes you feel like you in the event.” – Richardo Chavez
- 1271) “Art is important because it sometimes can express the artist feeling in different ways. Art is important because it shows the viewer what’s going on.” – Eliseo Guzman
- 1272) “Visual Arts is important because it helps expand one’s creativity. Not only that, but it serves as an escape from one’s ordinary life. Personally, I’m interested in photography, and I’m planning to take it as my minor. There’s always something new to learn, and it can distract you from your problems. You can observe the world from different perspectives through pictures.” – Jessica Sanchez
- 1273) “It is important because I can learn about a artist and great things and with my experience I will going to learn big things like draw. That is going to help me a lot. – Andres Nunez