

# Arts in the Classroom



## Enriching Education Through Exposure to the Arts

Long-held beliefs once thought that children with disabilities were limited in what they could achieve. They were seen as unable to learn, have fun, or fully engage in life. Today, we have a more enlightened understanding that children, even those with significant cognitive challenges, possess remarkable capabilities. Through enriching learning experiences, they can unlock their potential and thrive.

Unlocking the potential in students with disabilities through the arts helps develop self-esteem, boosts social interaction, and enhances language skills. The Special Education Foundation (SEF) believes that the arts are a vital component of education for students with disabilities. Through SEF's Arts in the Classroom program, students served by the Special School District are granted opportunities to explore theater performances, music, and more.

***“By partnering with SSD, SEF helps give access for students to experience performing arts such as theater and music that they may not be able to do otherwise,” said Tim Eby, SEF executive director. “These experiences can change a student’s perspective on the world, bringing joy and positivity as part of their school day.”***

Private donations allow SEF to collaborate with The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Metro Theater Company, and other local performing arts to bring the core arts elements – singing, acting, and dancing – directly to the schools. This initiative removes barriers that might prevent students from accessing and participating in these experiences at external venues.

Through the Special Education Foundation’s Arts in the Classroom program, these experiences not only bring joy to students, teachers, and staff but also contribute to improving communication skills, problem-solving abilities, and managing anxiety, ultimately promoting happiness among the students. Learn more about the Special Education Foundation’s Arts in the Classroom program.

