



Why STEAM and Arts Education Matters

How STEM Affects Our Lives

Ask anyone in education about STEM. They will agree it's important for the education of our children. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) touches every part of daily life. Think about it. Science is responsible for the cell phones you use. Science helps us prepare the food we eat. Without science, there would be no TV programs. When both parents and kids [understand STEM](#), we can make great strides in creating better opportunities for our kids.

The State of STEM Education in the U.S.

As recently as 2015, only 16% of the members of the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) feel that science education in the United States is above average. 46% of them feel the United States is below average in STEM education. Sadly, the numbers have not improved much.

STEAM is seen as a better way to advance interest and understanding in the sciences. This is important because the United States is so far behind other countries in science and math education.

How STEAM is Different from STEM

STEAM is considered [next-level STEM](#). It emphasizes teaching sciences and math, but art added in. The "A" in STEAM includes fine arts, music, social studies, and language arts, just to name a few.

By including a focus on the arts, we give our children a broad view of our diverse planet. In social studies, for example, we can help our kids understand other cultures. When we look at history, we can take steps to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Studying language arts helps kids prepare for a world that is constantly shrinking. Advances in technology allow us to talk to anyone in the world any time we want. communications. If a kid in Brooklyn, NY needs to talk to a sibling in Paris, France, it is now as easy as knocking on the door of our next-door neighbor.

Adding art to a STEM program might seem like an odd fit. However, incorporating art in a science and math curriculum has massive benefits. Later in this article, we will look at some of the ways STEAM makes learning sciences easier and more beneficial.

A Brief History of STEM & STEAM



To understand why adding art to STEM is so important, we need to look at the [history of STEM & STEAM](#). STEM as an acronym emerged in the early part of this century. It started as an industry term.

Niches in science, technology, engineering, and math collectively began using STEM as shorthand. It was a reference to specific careers. STEM mostly referred to the fastest growing industries.

Companies in the United States, educational institutions, and even the U.S. government came to realize something. It dawned on them they needed to increase focus on science and math in education.

They realized competition from other countries was only going to increase. If America wanted to compete in the technologies race, we needed to get our youth involved as young as possible. After several years, STEM had become an accepted term in children's education.

STEAM emerged as hands-on instruction in the arts to help increase STEM comprehension. Educators began to realize the arts helped students boost their creativity. This creativity helped kids better grasp STEM fundamentals. It also helped them achieve more.

The Benefits of STEAM in Education

Including art in STEM education has several benefits. These help students in school and continue into adulthood. Just a few are listed below:

- **Brain Exercise** – Like any muscle in the body, your brain needs exercise. Without constant use, kids may backslide, especially during summer vacation. Using art with STEM helps keep students' minds active. This prevents the dreaded "[summer slide](#)."
- **Increased Creativity** – Being creative means your mind can try new things. This is far better than a rigid "this is how it's always been done" mindset. Many of the biggest advances in science have come from thinking outside the box.
- **Critical Thinking** – Problem-solving, flexibility, and responsibility are bolstered by the addition of the arts. In the real world, in any career, those same skills matter to employers above anything else.
- **Artistic Outlet** – Kids can present their thoughts or ideas with artistic expression. They have the freedom to communicate in a way that makes sense to them. This helps foster a sense of self, of belonging. It also nurtures healthy self-esteem. Kids who feel good about themselves tend to have greater confidence in what they do.
- **Better Sense of Community** – There is evidence that having an arts education helps increase a feeling of community in children. People of all ages are becoming further and further disconnected from each other. Because of social media obsession, people just don't connect as often. The arts can help kids connect to their community.



- **Learn in Different Ways** – People process information by seeing, hearing, touching, and touching. Some kids prefer absorbing information by listening. Others learn better by seeing things. Still other students learn best by using their hands and getting involved. Arts encourage experiencing the world with multiple senses. As a result, kids will learn better and faster.
- **Kids Test Better** – Studies have shown that kids with an art education do better on tests. Several reports from the [Center of Online Education](#) reveal varying degrees of promising data. One 2002 report showed that kids who experience music, dance, and even drama are better at math, reading, and writing. A 2006 study highlighted a likely increase in reading comprehension in children who had an arts education.
- **High Graduation Rates** – The NSBA (National School Boards Association) cited a study called the [Nation's Report Card](#) that showed a connection between an arts education and lower dropout rates, higher graduation rates, and better overall academic performance.

Looking Ahead

Here at Lamad Academy, we are committed to ensuring your children are [prepared for their future](#). We believe that by incorporating STEAM into our curriculum, our students will perform better. It's not only about performance, however. We want kids to become better, more well-rounded people. Doing so will help them navigate the twists and turns of adult life.

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