



Executive Proclamation
by
Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson

WHEREAS, arts education offers Alaska's students a chance to broaden their perspectives and allows for the expression of their imagination and creativity; and

WHEREAS, arts education includes visual arts such as drawing, painting, photography, media arts, ceramics, sculpting, architecture; cultural arts such as beading, sewing, carving; and literary and performance arts including poetry, prose, drama, dance, music and theatre; and all serve as methods to express our relationship with the environment and culture; and

WHEREAS, education in the arts improves students' reading comprehension, and students who study the arts have often shown higher scores on verbal and math Scholastic Aptitude Tests than those without arts in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, arts education enables students to develop critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills; and fosters self-discipline, motivation and positive self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, we appreciate the teachers, community members, arts organizations, parents, and local artists whose dedication to Alaska's students have inspired passion, vision, and learning in our schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the important role of arts education in the preservation and continuation of Alaska's rich cultural and historical heritage, and support aspiring artists as they develop their skills and explore their talents; and

WHEREAS, support of arts education is often considered the measure of a civilized and enlightened society, and having a strong foundation for our students to draw upon allows them to flourish academically and artistically, and to express the beauty and richness that surrounds them in our great state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Michael Johnson, COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT, do hereby proclaim March 2019 as:

Alaska Arts Education Month

and encourage all Alaskans to support and participate in arts and cultural programs offered to students of all ages in schools and communities across our great state.

Dated March 5th, 2019

A blue ink signature of Michael Johnson is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Michael Johnson, DEED Commissioner