

# Comparison Guide

## What makes Daybreak Academy different?

Our students get more hours of academics & arts enrichments

Academy students receive more valuable learning time in the classroom, but more importantly, they receive an exceptional value in how those classroom hours are utilized....

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## Why does the Academy have such a strong enrichment program?

Our students perform impressively well in their bi-annual assessments. However, the true benefits of schooling go far beyond being a great test-taker. The most hoped for benefits are that the child will be generally smarter (higher IQ), be good at real world problem solving, and be a creative “out-of-the-box” thinker as they progress in a complex and ever-changing world.

That is why we make sure that our students get a comprehensive and well-rounded education that doesn't focus on cramming in facts to pass tests, but that uses scientifically validated arts enrichments to give the whole child a leg up in the ways that truly matter. Consider that taking more music, for example, will produce better math scores than simply taking more math! (reference: Enrichment Benefits Study Sheet).

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## Results

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Unique   | Students learn to think for themselves and value their uniqueness.  |
| Curious  | Education isn't about memorizing facts, it's about exploration.   |
| Prepared | Our students are prepared for higher level thinking and discovery.  |
| Respect  | Students learn that respect for self and others is a cornerstone for a successful and rewarding academic experience, and for life in general. |



At Daybreak Academy we concern ourselves with whole child development. Our student's academic achievement is only one small part of the bigger picture of wellness.

## How does my child's education compare with other schools?



### Daybreak Academy Hours in School Vs. Public School Hours in School

#### Daybreak Academy 6.5 hour day

August	21
Sept	21
Oct	20
Nov	19
Dec	16
Jan	19
Feb	20
Mar	18
Apr	21
May	21
June	18

214 days total  
1391 hrs total

#### D-Track Daybreak Elem 7 hour day 5 hour day

August	11	9	2
Sept	21	17	4
Oct	7	5	2
Nov	12	9	3
Dec	16	13	3
Jan	10	8	2
Feb	15	12	3
Mar	21	17	4
Apr	15	12	3
May	15	12	3
June	22	18	4

165 days total 132 33  
1089 hrs total 924 hours 165 hours

NOTE: These hours were compared for the 2015-2016 school year for 1<sup>st</sup> grade and older. Academy Kindergarten students have significantly more time in school, since public school is only half day and takes even more days off each year. In total, Academy 1<sup>st</sup> grade+ students get an extra 302 school hours vs public school. Academy students get more hours of academic schooling even after deducting ALL enrichment periods (most of which are also higher-level academics subjects, such as advanced literature, tech, & science).



## Why Martial Arts?

The Martial Arts help teach self-discipline and socialization skills. In fact, many families who have attention –deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) report great success with these programs because self-control and concentration are exactly the skills underdeveloped in ADHD children. Experts say it's the respect kids learn, whether from bowing or standing still and waiting for the next command, that can be the most important benefit: it carries over into school, helping to improve behavior and even grades, according to recent research. (More information is available at [daybreakacademy.com](http://daybreakacademy.com))

# The Academy offers Amazing Arts Enrichments

Daybreak Academy has a more advanced arts enrichment program than you will find at any other school (both public and private). This matters for many reasons, including the simple fact that kids who get arts enrichment end up being higher achievers and have higher IQs than their peers.



*"We learn through exploration, not by memorizing facts."*

## The Importance of Art in Child Development

In recent years, school curricula in the United States have shifted heavily toward common core subjects of reading and math, but what about the arts? Although some may regard art education as a luxury, simple creative activities are some of the building blocks of child development. Learning to create and appreciate visual aesthetics is more important than ever to the development of the next generation of children as they grow up in today's ever-changing world.

**Language Development:** For very young children, making art—or just talking about it—provides opportunities to learn words for colors, shapes and actions. When toddlers are as young as a year old, parents can do simple activities such as crumpling up paper and calling it a "ball." By elementary school, students can use descriptive words to discuss their own creations or to talk about what feelings are elicited when they see different styles of artwork.

**Decision Making:** According to a report by Americans for the Arts, art education strengthens problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. The experience of making decisions and choices in the course of creating art carries over into other parts of life. "If they are exploring and thinking and experimenting and trying new ideas, then creativity has a chance to blossom," says MaryAnn Kohl, an arts educator and author of numerous books about children's art education.

**Visual Learning:** Drawing, sculpting with clay and threading beads on a string all develop visual-spatial skills, which are more important than ever.

Even toddlers know how to operate a smart phone or tablet, which means that even before they can read, kids are taking in visual information. This information consists of cues that we get from pictures or three-dimensional objects from digital media, books and television.

"Parents need to be aware that children learn a lot more from graphic sources now than in the past," says Dr. Kerry Freedman, Head of Art and Design Education at Northern Illinois University. "Children need to know more about the world than just what they can learn through text and numbers. Art education teaches students how to interpret, criticize, and use visual information, and how to make choices based on it." Knowledge about the visual arts, such as graphic symbolism, is especially important in helping kids become smart consumers and navigate a world filled with marketing logos.

**Inventiveness:** When kids are encouraged to express themselves and take risks in creating art, they develop a sense of innovation that will be important in their adult lives. "The kind of people society needs to make it move forward are thinking, inventive people who seek new ways and improvements, not people who can only follow directions," says Kohl. "Art is a way to encourage the process and the experience of thinking and making things better!"

**Improved Academic Performance:** Studies show that there is a correlation between art and other achievement. A report by Americans for the Arts states that young people who participate regularly in the arts (three hours a day on three days each week through one full year) are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair or to win an award for writing an essay or poem than children who do not participate.

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**More Than Just Music**

Research has found that learning music facilitates learning other subjects and enhances skills that children inevitably use in other areas. “A music-rich experience for children of singing, listening and moving is really bringing a very serious benefit to children as they progress into more formal learning,” says Mary Luehrisen, executive director of the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation, a not-for-profit association that promotes the benefits of making music.

Making music involves more than the voice or fingers playing an instrument; a child learning about music has to tap into multiple skill sets, often simultaneously. For instance, people use their ears and eyes, as well as large and small muscles, says Kenneth Guilmartin, cofounder of Music Together, an early childhood music development program for infants through kindergarteners that involves parents or caregivers in the classes.

“Music learning supports all learning,” Guilmartin says.

**Increased IQ**

A study by E. Glenn Schellenberg at the University of Toronto at Mississauga, as published in a 2004 issue of *Psychological Science*, found an increase in the IQs of six-year-olds who were given weekly voice and piano lessons. Schellenberg provided nine months of piano and voice lessons to a dozen six-year-olds, drama lessons (to see if exposure to arts in general versus just music had an effect) to a second group of six-year-olds, and no lessons to a third group. The children’s IQs were tested before entering the first grade, then again before entering the second grade.

**The Brain Works Harder**

Research indicates the brain of a musician, even a young one, works differently than that of a nonmusician. “There’s some good neuroscience research that children involved in music have larger growth of neural activity than people not in music training. When you’re a musician and you’re playing an instrument, you have to be using more of your brain,” says Dr. Eric Rasmussen, chair of the Early Childhood Music Department at the Peabody Preparatory of The Johns Hopkins University, where he teaches a specialized music curriculum for children aged two months to nine years.

Surprisingly, the children who were given music lessons over the school year tested on average three IQ points higher than the other groups. The drama group didn’t have the same increase in IQ, but did experience increased social behavior benefits not seen in the music-only group.

**Improved Test Scores**

A study published in 2007 by Christopher Johnson, professor of music education and music therapy at the University of Kansas, revealed that students in elementary schools with superior music education programs scored around 22 percent higher in English and 20 percent higher in math scores on standardized tests, compared to schools with low-quality music programs, regardless of socioeconomic disparities among the schools or school districts.



## Hands On Learning

Students in a hands-on science program will remember the material better, feel a sense of accomplishment when the task is completed, and be able to transfer that experience easier to other learning situations. When more than one method of learning is accessed as in hands-on learning, the information has a better chance of being stored in the memory for useful retrieval.

*I hear and I forget  
I see and I remember  
I do and I understand*

**- Chinese Proverb**

If students are not doing hands-on science, they are not doing science. Science is a process and if students are not actively engaged in the process, they are not doing science. Most science classes in elementary school teach the vocabulary of science and nothing else. Study after study has shown the value of hands-on learning. Students are motivated, they learn more, even their reading skills improve. How can you justify not doing hands-on science? *Edwin, J.C. Sobey, National Invention Center, Akron, OH*



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How does study of the arts contribute to student achievement and success?

A recent New Harris Poll Reveals That 93% of Americans Believe That the Arts Are Vital to Providing a Well-Rounded Education and yet most schools now provide little to no arts enrichments.

### The SAT and Arts Learning

The relationship between arts learning and the SAT is of considerable interest to anyone concerned with college readiness and admissions issues. The SAT Reasoning Test (formerly known as the SAT I) is the most widely used test offered by the College Board as part of its SAT Program. It assesses students' verbal and math skills and knowledge and is described as a "standardized measure of college readiness."

*"Multiple independent studies have shown increased years of enrollment in arts courses are positively correlated with higher SAT verbal and math scores."*

High school students who take arts classes have higher math and verbal SAT scores than students who take no arts classes.

Arts participation and SAT scores co-vary—that is, they tend to increase linearly: the more arts classes, the higher the scores. Notably, students who took four years of arts coursework outperformed their peers who had one half-year or less of arts coursework by 58 points on the verbal portion and 38 points on the math portion of the SAT.

In an experimental research study of school age students, those who studied dance scored higher than nondancers on measures of creative thinking, especially in the categories of fluency, originality and abstract thought. Whether dancers can use their


original abstract thinking skills in other disciplines is an important area of exploration.

A group of 162 children, ages 9 and 10, were trained to look closely at works of art and reason about what they saw. The results showed that children's ability to draw inferences about artwork transferred to their reasoning about images in science. In both cases, the critical skill is that of looking closely and reasoning about what is seen.

*"The evidence is clear: study of the arts contributes to student achievement and success. Its multiple benefits are academic, basic and comprehensive."*

Research doesn't hold all the answers to why the arts are important, but it does confirm what most people already know: The arts make a significant contribution to helping all students achieve success in school, work and life.





**“Students who study art are 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.”**

—The President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities

