

USING ART AND MUSIC TO REINFORCE LEARNING IN GRADE 4

by:

Reicy L. Due

Teacher III, Daang Bago Elementary School

The fourth grade marks a crucial stage in a pupil's intellectual and emotional growth. At this age, children begin to think more abstractly, become more emotionally aware, and develop stronger skills in self-expression. While reading, writing, and mathematics remain central to traditional teaching, integrating art and music into daily lessons is a powerful way to enhance engagement and deepen learning. These creative tools not only make lessons more enjoyable but also improve memory retention, spark creativity, and support holistic development.

In today's search for effective strategies to boost student motivation and performance, art and music have proven to be more than just "add-ons" to the curriculum. They transform routine lessons into dynamic, hands-on experiences that tap into children's natural love for expression, color, rhythm, and movement. For Grade 4 learners—who are beginning to face more structured and challenging academic requirements—these creative approaches help bridge learning gaps, sustain interest, and strengthen understanding.

Although often regarded as "supplementary" subjects, art and music are essential learning resources. Both stimulate the logical and creative areas of the brain, nurturing skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, and communication. They also provide alternative ways for students—especially those who may struggle with conventional learning methods—to demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

Visual art allows pupils to comprehend and illustrate abstract concepts. In science, for instance, students can draw labeled diagrams of weather systems, life cycles, or the

human body. In mathematics, they can explore geometry, symmetry, and multiplication arrays through shapes and patterns. In Araling Panlipunan, they might sketch Filipino heroes, create posters about historical events, or design maps. After reading a story in English or Filipino, students can paint the setting, create a comic strip version, or design a book cover – activities that encourage them to express comprehension through visual storytelling.

Music, on the other hand, is a universal language that resonates with learners of all ages. Songs, rhythms, and melodies can enhance memory and focus in Grade 4 classrooms. Setting historical facts, spelling patterns, or multiplication tables to catchy tunes helps students recall information with ease. Playing soft background music during reading or writing activities can promote relaxation and concentration, while upbeat tracks can energize and motivate learners before challenging tasks. Action songs, clapping games, and movement-based music activities make lessons more interactive and fun. In GMRC, songs about kindness, respect, and other values help reinforce character education through repetition and emotional connection.

Far from being mere enrichment, art and music are indispensable partners in education. They provide opportunities to reinforce academic content while fostering creativity, self-confidence, and emotional well-being. In the Grade 4 classroom – where learners are curious, active, and imaginative – songs give them rhythm, art gives them a canvas, and together these media give them a voice. By integrating music and art into lessons, teachers can make learning not only more effective, but also more enjoyable, memorable, and meaningful.

References:

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