



## Executive Proclamation by Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson

WHEREAS, arts education offers Alaska's students the opportunity to express their imagination and creativity; and

WHEREAS, arts education encompasses a variety of domains, including visual arts such as drawing, painting, photography, media arts, ceramics, sculpting, architecture; cultural arts such as beading, sewing, carving; and literacy and performance arts including poetry, prose, drama, dance, music and theatre; and

WHEREAS, integration of the arts into education enhances 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, fosters self-discipline, increases concentration, motivation, self-expression, and confidence; 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, advocacy for arts education will help build a strong foundation for our students to flourish academically and artistically, and to express the unique beauty 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 2021 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 Alaska.

Dated: February 22, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Michael Johnson, DEED Commissioner