Six Beautiful Things about the Arts –  
How to Support Administrators in Assessing Your Work

1. The arts sensitize us to our environment and to ourselves; they make us more whole; more fully human. The arts allow for deeper and more varied perspectives, they encourage us to view the world with all of our sensors on gentle, high alert.
2. Students who are involved in the arts are much more likely to complete their high school education and to graduate on time
3. The arts have long used backward planning, formative assessment, and other “new” educational ideas which other content-areas are just now catching on to
4. The arts rarely provide definitive answers; ambiguity and confusion are wonderful and necessary hallmarks of the arts
5. We are human because of the arts – literally
6. The arts are enjoyable

J Franklin Horn is the Instructional Coach for the Arts and Physical Education in Aurora Public Schools. J taught vocal and instrumental music in Florida and Colorado for twenty-five years before taking over as APS Instructional Coach in 2008. J and his wife Claudia have four children – two are musicians, all four are artists, and one is a dancer. (Yes, some children are included in more than one category.)

J has recently completed a book entitled, “*U.S. Schools Are Number One! (If You Work the Math Right)*,” which will be published in November of 2013. The book looks at the achievement gap with an emphasis on ways in which the arts support all students.