TO THE EDITOR:
Being away the evening of Feb. 16 and missing that evening's school board meeting, I'll use this letter as my input to the "wants list."

It was interesting to see the consensus of citizen input printed in Feb. 17's Irving News. I was pleased to see that many Irving citizens have taken note of the crying need for an expanded and improved art program in our schools.

I would like to second and requote Gail Goyette of the Irving Art Association that she was "appalled at the lack of art education in the Irving school system."

This says it all for me, but I would like to make my own recommendation.

The report in the Irving News indicated citizen desire for primary improvement of the district's art program at the elementary level. I cannot totally disagree. However, I would primarily point to the high schools as the level where I would want my tax dollars spent to improve their art program.

By way of example, the University of Dallas recently held their 17th annual "High School Art Competition and Exhibition."

This showing was a tribute to the fine high school talent in the metropolis. There were only five entries from Irving schools accepted for the show out of over 400 entries.

Two of these five were my son's work and one of his won one of the 18 merit awards. Outside of Irving, it was obvious that several schools had the benefit of both good facilities and an excellent staff to develop their students' art talent.

I would especially note Dallas' H. Grady Spruce and Skyline high schools.

This son of mine does not take his art instruction at MacArthur High School. He has to seek that elsewhere.

For an active teen-ager that is difficult, and I, for one, want to see the situation changed.

Again using the example of the UD competition, I suspect that Irving could have had at least 10 times this year's representation if our schools' programs were on a par with those in the
Again using the example of the UD competition, I suspect that Irving could have had at least 10 times this year’s representation if our schools’ programs were on a par with those in the mentioned Dallas schools.

Irving can have a top-rate high school art program if they want it.

I hope that my voice will influence the trustees to investigate and then approve the establishment of an art program to really develop our children’s talent.

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