No wonder people think Caravaggio is a guy on the Sopranos.

Here’s a 16th-century Baroque master whose bold naturalistic painting style first created a sensation, then a movement. A troubled guy whose life was filled with the turbulence and excess of a dozen Mario Puzo novels. But does the kid next door even know who Michelangelo Caravaggio is? Fuhgedaboudit. If the arts are a vital part of your child’s education (and studies show you believe they are), then you should demand his or her fair share. Because, as Caravaggio would no doubt tell you, life without art is torture.

Art. Ask for more.

For more information about the importance of arts education, contact www.AmericansForTheArts.org.