

THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION:

The National Association for Music Education's Preamble and Mission Statements say, "Music allows us to celebrate and preserve our cultural heritages, and also to explore the realms of expression, imagination, and creation resulting in new knowledge. Therefore, every individual should be guaranteed the opportunity to learn music and to share in musical experiences.

The Mission of MENC; The National Association for Music Education is to advance music education by encouraging the study and making of music by all."

The benefits conveyed by music can be grouped in four categories:

1. Success in society: Perhaps the basic reason that every child must have an education in music is that music is a part of the fabric of our society. The intrinsic value of music for each individual is widely recognized in the many cultures that make up American life--indeed, every human culture uses music to carry forward its ideas and ideals. The importance of music to our economy is without doubt.

2. Success in school: Success in society, of course, is predicated on success in school.

Skills learned through the discipline of music transfer to study skills, communication skills, and cognitive skills useful in every part of the curriculum. The discipline of music study helps students learn to work effectively in the school environment.

3. Success in developing intelligence: Success in school and in society depends on an array of abilities. We can demonstrate that some measures of a child's intelligence are indeed increased with music instruction. Once again, this range of data supports a long-established base of knowledge to the effect that music education makes kids smarter. What is new and especially compelling, however, is a combination of behavioral studies and groundbreaking neurological research that shows how music study can actively contribute to brain development.

4. Success in life: Each of us wants our children--and the children of all those around us--to achieve success in school, success in employment, and success in the social structures through which we move. But we also want our children to experience "success" on a broader scale. Participation in music brings countless benefits to each individual throughout life. The benefits may be psychological or spiritual, and they may be physical as well.

Source: MENC--The National Association for Music Education "Music Education Facts and Figures" 2002.

For a copy of MENC's "Music Education Facts and Figures", visit www.menc.org, or contact R.E.E.F.

- Music is designated a (core academic subject) in the 'No Child Left Behind Act.' *No Child Left Behind Act of 2002, Title IX, Part A, Sec. 9101 (11)*
- The College Board identifies the arts as one of the six basic academic subjects students need in order to succeed in college. *Academic Preparation for College: What Students Need to Know and Be Able to Do, 1983 [still in use], The College Board, New York*
- "The arts make better math and science students, enhance spatial intelligence in newborns, and...are a compelling solution to teen violence." *Michael Greene, Recording Academy President and CEO at the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards, February 2000*
- In 2001, students participating in music scored higher on the SATs than students with no arts participation. Scores for students in music performance classes were 57 points higher (Verbal) and 41 points higher (Math). Scores for students in music appreciation classes were 63 points higher (Verbal) and 44 points higher (Math). *College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers. Princeton, NJ: The College Entrance Examination Board, 2001*
- "The musician is constantly adjusting decisions on tempo, tone, style, rhythm, phrasing, and feeling--training the brain to become incredibly good at organizing and conducting numerous activities at once." *Ratey John J., MD. A User's Guide to the Brain. New York: Pantheon Books, 2001*

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(949) 589-0808