

WHY SHOULD A STUDENT STUDY MUSIC?

Student Performance

- The College Entrance Examination Board found that students involved in public school music programs scored 107 points higher on the SAT's than students with no participation.
- Profiles of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, The College Board, compiled by the Music Educators National Conference (2002)
- U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high school years show "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12."
- U.S. Department of Education NELS88 Database

Public Support and Access

- According to a 2003 Gallup survey, 95 percent of Americans believe that music is a key component in a child's well-rounded education.
- American Attitudes on Music, Music Making and Music Education, The Gallup Organization 2003
- In spite of this public support and documented benefits, "only one in four eighth graders reported being asked to sing or play a music instrument at least once a week."
-1998 NAEP Assessment

Life Skills

- Arts involvement teaches children many skills necessary to succeed in life, including problem solving and decision making, building self-confidence and self-discipline, the ability to imagine what might be and to accept responsibility for it, teamwork, the development of informed perception, and articulating a vision. - Compiled from various research documents and reports
- Secondary students who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime and current use of all substances (alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs).
- Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Houston Chronicle, January 11, 1998

Scientific Research

- A research team reports that early music training dramatically enhances children's abstract reasoning skills. These findings indicate that music uniquely enhances higher brain functions required for mathematics, chess, science and engineering.
- From Neurological Research, Feb 28, 1997; Frances Rauscher, Ph.D., Gordon Shaw, Ph.D, University of California, Irvine
- A two-year Swiss study involving 1,200 children in 50 schools showed that students involved in the music program were better at languages, learned to read more easily, showed an improved social climate, showed more enjoyment in school, and had a lower level of stress than non-music students.
-Weber, E.W., Spychiger, M. & Patry, J.L. (1993)

Arts and the Economy

- America's nonprofit arts industry generates \$134 billion in economic activity every year, including \$24.4 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues.
- Americans for the Arts

Honors and Awards

- According to the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988, music students received more academic honors and awards than non-music students. A higher percentage of music participants received As, As/Bs, and Bs than non-music participants. (Source: NELS:88 First Follow-up, 1990, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington D.C.)
- Lewis Thomas, physician and biologist, found that music majors comprise the highest percentage of accepted medical students at 66%. (Source: As reported in "The Case for Music in the Schools," Phi Delta Kappan, February 1994.)
- Research made between music and intelligence concluded that music training is far greater than computer instruction in improving children's abstract reasoning skills.(Source: Shaw, Rauscher, Levine, Wright, Dennis and Newcomb, "Music training causes long-term enhancement of preschool children's spatial-temporal reasoning," Neurological Research, vol. 19, February 1997)
- The University of Montreal researched brain imaging techniques to study brain activity during musical tasks. Researchers concluded that sight-reading musical scores

and playing music "activate regions in all four of the cortex's lobes" and "parts of the cerebellum are also activated during those tasks." (Source: J. Sergent, E. Zuck, S. Tenial, and B. MacDonnall (1992). Distributed neural network underlying musical sight reading and keyboard performance. *Science*, 257, 106-109.)

- Researchers in Leipzig discovered through the use of brain scans that musicians had larger planum temporale, the region of the brain associated with reading skills. Also, musicians had a thicker corpus callosum, the nerve fibers that connect the two halves of the brain. (Source: G. Schlaug, L. Jancke, Y. Huang, and H. Steinmetz (1994). "In vivo morphometry of inter-hemispheric asymmetry and connectivity in musicians." In I. Deliege (Ed.), *Proceedings of the 3rd international conference for music perception and cognition* (pp. 417-418), Liege, Belgium.)
- "The arts enrich communities and employees, and also stimulate the kind of intellectual curiosity our company needs to stay competitive." (Source: Norma R. Augustine, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Martin Marietta Corporation.)

Business and Community

How Arts Education Builds the Skills that Business Values

- An education in the arts encourages high achievement.
 - Study of the arts encourages a suppleness of the mind, a toleration for ambiguity, a taste for nuance, and the ability to make trade-offs among alternative courses of action.
 - Study of the arts helps students to think and work across traditional disciplines.
 - They learn both to integrate knowledge and to "think outside the box."
 - An education in the arts teaches student how to work together cooperatively.
 - An education in the arts builds an understanding of diversity and the multi-cultural dimensions of our world.
 - An arts education insists on the value of content, which helps students understand "quality" as a key value.
 - An arts education contributes to technological competence.
- Source: *Business Week*, October 28, 1996

Thoughts on Music

"The greatest scientists are artists as well,"
Albert Einstein

"If a composer could say what he had to say in words he would not bother trying to say it in music."
Gustav Mahler

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy."
Ludwig van Beethoven

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent"
Victor Hugo

"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music. I see my life in terms of music."
Albert Einstein

"Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness."
Maya Angelou

The words Music and Education are Inseparable: One cannot learn music without education and no education is complete without music.

Upcoming Events

- May 17-Sixth-Grade Band Concert 7:00 PM SFMS GYM
- May 18-Instrument Fitting for Rising Sixth-Graders 5-8 PM
- May 16-May24 2016-2017 Symphonic Band Auditions
- May 23-Rising Sixth-Grade Parent Meeting for Band 7:00 PM SFMS Cafeteria
- May 24-8th Grade Band Banquet 6:30 PM Living Stones Church
- May 24-25 Last days we will play in class-All school-owned instruments due back
- May 26-SFMS Awards Night