

The Power of Music Education

How music performance enhances learning

Research proves that music education helps prepare children for the future. Music allows children the unique opportunity to “experience excellence”. It provides them a way to develop the critical skills needed for the current workplace. It also empowers them with the essential change-management skills needed to adapt to future workplace demands. The following is a sampling of current insights into this area.

Teaches the Habit of Excellence

Directors agreed that children who are active in school music programs get the unique opportunity to experience the intrinsic value of excellence. Organizations today emphasize the need to recruit people who can demonstrate proven abilities in the areas of quality and commitment to excellence.

-Dynamic Presentations Unlimited Research; December 2001

Develops Quick and Decisive Thinking

During musical performance, children must constantly turn their thoughts into action. Thought structures continually have to be updated and adjusted. The combination of constant vigilance and forethought coupled with ever-changing physical responses is an educational experience of unique value.

-Making Music Makes You Smarter; 1997

Builds Teamwork Skills

Ninety-seven percent of respondents to a 2000 Gallup survey agrees that performing in a musical program is a good way to develop teamwork skills.

-2000 Gallup survey on American attitudes toward music education.

Enhances Cooperation

The social climate of music instruction is marked by cooperation, whereas in most other subjects cooperation is totally lacking or replaced by competition. Only by working together can students perform musically. They learn that cooperation is a means to an end which can be applied to other goals.

-University of Wisconsin

Americans Support Music Education

A 2000 Gallup survey commissioned by NAMM- International Music Products Association on "American's Attitudes Toward Music, Music Making, and Music Education" revealed very important information. The following responses are representative of the Gallup survey:

95% of respondents agree music should be part of a well-rounded education.

97% believe that school music is a good way for young people to develop teamwork.

78% agree that the state should mandate music education in schools.

81% agree participation in a school music program often corresponds to better grades and test scores.

87% agree that music is an important part of life.

90% agree that music brings the family together.

95% believe it provides a sense of accomplishment.

73% believe teenagers who are part of a music program are less likely to have discipline problems.

98% agree that being a part of a music program provides life-long enjoyment.