

The Benefits of Music

Studies from across the nation have shown that children involved in instrumental music have advantages mentally and socially compared to those not involved. The following is a sample of the research that is currently available:

Did You Know? Middle school and high school students who participated in instrumental music scored significantly higher than their non-band peers in standardized tests. University studies conducted in Georgia and Texas found significant correlations between the number of years of instrumental music instruction and academic achievement in math, science and language arts. Source: University of Sarasota Study, Jeffery Lynn Kluball; East Texas State University Study, Daryl Erick Trent Did You Know Students who were exposed to music-based lessons scored a full 100 percent higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner. Second-grade and third-grade students were taught fractions in an untraditional manner, by teaching them basic rhythm notation. The group was taught about relationships between eighth, quarter, half and whole notes. Their peers received traditional fraction instruction. Source: Neurological Research

Did You Know? Music study can help kids understand advanced mathematic concepts. A grasp of proportional math and fractions is a prerequisite to math at higher levels, and children who do not master these areas cannot understand more advanced math critical to high-tech fields. Music involves ratios, fractions, proportions and thinking in space and time. Second-grade students were given four months of piano keyboard training, as well as time using newly designed math software. The group scored over 27 percent higher on proportional math and fractions tests than children who used only the math software. Source: Neurological Research

Did You Know? High school music students score higher on SATs in both verbal and math than their peers. SAT takers with coursework/experience in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 41 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework/experience in the arts. Source: Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, The College Board, compiled by Music Educators National Conference

Why Join Band?

University Admission Statements Harvard University: "The arts are clearly an integral part of life at Harvard and Radcliffe, important for their value to the college environment and also for the potential they provide for lifelong enrichment. In addition to academic criteria, therefore, we always consider extracurricular talents

and personal strengths when we evaluate a candidate's credentials. We look for students whose previous participation in the arts shows that they can make substantial contributions to our community." Yale College: "Qualifications for admission to Yale College include not only the reasonably well-defined areas of academic achievement and special skill in non-academic areas, but also the less tangible qualities of capacity for involvement, commitment, and personal growth. The arts offer remarkable opportunities for the exercise of these qualities. The highly skilled artist, the student whose intellectual interests include close study of the arts, and the many applications who demonstrate motivation and the willingness to extend their reach through participation in the arts, all promise to enhance the quality of life at Yale." Stanford University: "...we believe that exposure to the creative and performing arts enhances a student's intellectual breadth." John Hopkins University: "The real challenge in selective college admission is not to assemble a class capable of negotiating a rigorous academic curriculum, but one that will also enhance the quality of life on campus. Participation in the performing arts during the pre-college years is a clear indication to our admission committee that a student is dedicated to, excited about and engaged in the educational journey. As such, a background in the arts is one factor that helps us choose among academically qualified students a class which will avail itself of the many opportunities at Hopkins and will contribute to the life of the University." The University of Michigan: "Intellectual leaders from Plato to the present have recognized the importance of arts to a thriving civilization. The University of Michigan joins in recommending the arts because of their humanizing influences, their demands for self-discipline, their abilities to evoke idealistic dreams that transcend everyday issues, their effectiveness in reflecting the achievements of diverse peoples, and their capacities to stimulate that most important of all intellectual abilities: creativity. Perhaps in no past era of our increasingly global civilization have these qualities been more sorely needed than they are today." The University of Tennessee, Knoxville: "As of 1993, the University of Tennessee has required the completion of one year of high school course work in the visual or performing arts for admission to the University. This is tangible evidence of our commitment to the arts as an integral part of a liberal education, an affirmation to the vital role that the arts play in enriching our campus community."