



EFFECT OF MUSIC ON THE BRAIN

"There's a misconception in public school systems that 'only the smart kids participate in band.'"

The truth of the matter is that the brain activity that occurs while playing a musical instrument enhances brain development and improves a student's ability to retain information. While your brain is active, different neurons connect to each other using synapses, which create mental "blueprints" that help us remember information. If the information is not reinforced, it will be lost quickly. When playing an instrument, the brain produces a chemical called myelin. Myelin acts to coat and protect those synapses so information can be stored indefinitely. In recent years, research has shown that students who start playing an instrument at an early age achieve higher scores on standardized tests and are better prepared for college.

In short, the "smart kids" are created in large part by their participation in the band program.



Source: Dr. Tim Leptechnick, "Band Administration and Leadership American Band College 2004"

WHY SHOULD YOUR STUDENT BE IN BAND

Over the past 50 years, there has been a plethora of research into the the benefits of music on the development of the adolescent brain. Time and time again, it has been proven that music has positively effected performance on college entrance exams, leadership skills, social development, and critical thinking. At some point we teach them music as well.



MUSIC MAKES YOU SMARTER

According to The College Board, the Not-for-profit organization who administers the SAT and AP Exams, students who participate in musical performances tend to out perform their nonmusical peers. Musicians tend to score 57 points higher on the verbal portion and 41 points higher on the math portion of the SAT.

Source: The College Board, Profile of College-Bound Seniors National Report for 2006



"Does music make you smarter, or do smart people choose music?"



...at least one of these statements is true."

WHAT'S UP DOC?

The next time you go in for a check up, ask your doctor about their musical background. The most prevalent degree program for pre-medical degrees is music. The hand, eye, and, ear coordination taught in band is a great asset to any surgeon.

Source: "The Case for Music in the Schools," Phi Delta Kappa, Feb 2004



Who would you prefer to operate on you?



Many professional pianist start at the age of 3

WHAT OUR GOVERNMENT THINKS

"To put it simply, we need to keep the arts in education because they instill in students the habits of mind that last a lifetime: critical analysis skills, the ability to deal with ambiguity and to solve problems, perseverance and a drive for excellence. Moreover, the creative skills children develop through the arts carry them toward new ideas, new experiences, and new challenges, not to mention personal satisfaction. This is the intrinsic value of the arts, and it cannot be overestimated."

Source: Education Week, Issue 20, vol. 14, pp. 40, 51, Jan 26, 2005, Rod Paige & Mike Huckabee



Rod Paige
Former Secretary of Education



Mike Huckabee
Former Governor of Arkansas

WHAT'S NEXT

In the upcoming weeks, registration will begin for classes for the upcoming school year. As a parent, we would like for you to have all the information as to why you and your child should participate in band. Inside this brochure, you will find quotes, data, and research from some of the top minds in our country as to the benefits of music education.



Course Description:

Intermediate Band 7 & 8

This course focuses on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills developed the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. Students are encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons. Students are expected to practice daily, attend after school rehearsals, and participate in other co-curricular events. Students will have at least one major performance each semester that will occur outside the school day; performances are required.

Advanced Band Grades 7 & 8

This course is the middle school's most advanced performing ensembles for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This year-long course introduces "comprehensive musicianship" through music performance of challenging and varied literature. In addition to continued refinement of individual performance skills, greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students are encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble festivals, district honor bands, and private lessons. Students will continue to develop their knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in their performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills will be expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. Students are expected to practice daily, attend after school rehearsals, and participate in other co-curricular events. Students will have at least one major performance each semester that will occur outside the school day; performances are required.

WHY BAND?

For the parent of a great student



"The life of the arts, far from being an interruption, a distraction, in the life of the nation, is close to the center of a nation's purpose – and is a test to the quality of a nation's civilization." – *John F. Kennedy*

