



Why Music is Important !

Factoid #1

Studies show that where schools increase opportunities for the arts for all students, test scores rise proportionately.... Although pull-out instrumental lessons in the intermediate grades often come under scrutiny, largely due to scheduling, research has shown that creating time in the school day for band or choir has no impact on participants' test scores.

Paul G. Young, Principal of West Elementary School, Lancaster, PA, and President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals 2002-2003

Source: Principal Magazine - Source Date: 2003-01-01

Factoid #2

Six studies in the last decades have been conducted to investigate the academic effects of removing students from the regular elementary classroom for string instruction. The studies involve both urban and suburban school districts differing in size, socioeconomic mix, and racial balance. All six studies show that student math and reading achievement test scores are not affected by classroom pull-out.

Source: "The Elementary Pullout Crisis: Using Research Effectively" ASTA publication

Source Date: 1998-04-01

Factoid #3

Student productivity is defined as academic achievement and satisfaction. The purpose of this research was to investigate the effect of the reorganization of school time -- the school calendar and the length of instructional periods -- on student satisfaction at the high school level.

Source: National Association for Year Round Education (NAYRE)

Source Date: 2003-01-13

Factoid #4

In two of the four sections (writing and mathematics) it was found that no statistically significant difference existed between string students and non-string students. However, in the other two sections (reading and citizenship) there was a statistically significant difference in favor of string students.

Source Date: 1998-07-13

Twelve Benefits of Music Education *from Music Education Advocacy Resources*

1. Early musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning. It is thought that brain development continues for many years after birth. Recent studies have clearly indicated that musical training physically develops the part of the left side of the brain known to be involved with processing language, and can actually wire the brain's circuits in specific ways.
2. There is also a causal link between music and spatial intelligence (the ability to perceive the world accurately and to form mental pictures of things). This kind of intelligence, by which one can visualize various elements that should go together, is critical to the sort of thinking necessary for everything from solving advanced mathematics problems to being able to pack a book-bag with everything that will be needed for the day.
3. Students of the arts learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions, rejecting outdated rules and assumptions. Questions about the arts do not have only one right answer.
4. Recent studies show that students who study the arts are more successful on standardized tests such as the SAT. They also achieve higher grades in high school.
5. A study of the arts provides children with an internal glimpse of other cultures and teaches them to be empathetic towards the people of these cultures. This development of compassion and empathy, as opposed to development of greed and a "me first" attitude, provides a bridge across cultural chasms that leads to respect of other races at an early age.
6. Students of music learn craftsmanship as they study how details are put together painstakingly and what constitutes good, as opposed to mediocre, work. These standards, when applied to a student's own work, demand a new level of excellence and require students to stretch their inner resources.
7. Through music study, students learn the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence and the concrete rewards of hard work.
8. Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline. In order for an orchestra to sound good, all players must work together harmoniously towards a single goal, the performance, and must commit to learning music, attending rehearsals, and practicing.
9. Music provides children with a means of self-expression. Everyone needs to be in touch at some time in his life with his core, with what he is and what he feels. Self-esteem is a by-product of this self-expression.
10. Music focuses on "doing," as opposed to observing, and teaches students how to perform, literally, anywhere in the world. Employers are looking for multi-dimensional workers with flexible and supple intellects that music education helps to create as described above. In the music classroom, students can also learn to better communicate and cooperate with one another.
11. Music performance teaches young people to conquer fear and to take risks. A little anxiety is a good thing, and something that will occur often in life. Dealing with it early and often makes it less of a problem later. Risk-taking is essential if a child is to fully develop his or her potential.
12. An arts education exposes children to the incomparable.

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