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How Band Makes Students Successful

There have many studies done on the effects of music and art training on child development. In addition to these there are some solid statistics supporting importance of music education. Check these facts out:

Young people who participate in the arts for at least three hours on three days each week through at least one full year are:

- 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- 3 times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools
- 4 times more likely to participate in a math and science fair
- 3 times more likely to win an award for school attendance
- 4 times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem

(Living the Arts through Language + Learning: A Report on Community-based Youth Organizations, Shirley Brice Heath, Stanford University and Carnegie Foundation For the Advancement of Teaching, Americans for the Arts Monograph, November 1998)

According to the College Entrance Examination Board, In 2004, SAT takers with coursework/experience in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 40 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.

- Profiles of SAT and Achievement Test Takers, The College Board, compiled by the Music Educators National Conference (2004)

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 NELL88 Database

The College Board identifies the arts as one of the six basic academic subject areas students should study in order to succeed in college.

- Academic Preparation for College: What Students Need to Know and Be Able to Do, 1983 [still in use], The College Board, New York

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

A research team reports that early music training dramatically enhancing 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

Students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high school years show significantly higher levels of mathematical proficiency by grade 12. This observation holds both generally and for low socioeconomic status students as a subgroup. In addition, absolute differences in measured mathematics proficiency between students consistently involved versus not involved in instrumental music grew significantly over time.

-James Catterall, Richard Chapleau, and John Iwanaga, "Involvement in the Arts and Human Development."

The very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley industry are, nearly without exception, practicing musicians.

- Grant Venerable, "The Paradox of the Silicon Savior," as reported in "The Case for Sequential Music Education in the Core Curriculum of the Public Schools," *The Center for the Arts in the Basic Curriculum*, New York, 1989

"The musician is constantly adjusting decisions on tempo, tone, style, rhythm, phrasing, and feeling--training the brain to become incredibly good at organizing and conducting numerous activities at once. Dedicated practice of this orchestration can have a great payoff for lifelong attentional skills, intelligence, and an ability for self-knowledge and expression." --

Ratey John J., MD. A User's Guide to the Brain. New York: Pantheon Books, 2001.

Help your student be successful. Get them involved in music.

For more facts, studies and statistics, visit www.menc.org