

Does Music Education Really Matter?

*--Don't Just Take Our Word For
It!*

“Recent studies prove music programs help young people’s math and reading skills. Attendance and teamwork also improve. I believe all students should have the opportunity to take part in music programs. Let’s all do what we can to save music.”

— *President Bill Clinton*

“While most of us will never sing like Aretha Franklin or Celine Dion, an education in the arts can help all of us reach our individual dreams. Research now shows that music education not only lifts our children’s hearts, but also dramatically increases their abstract reasoning, spatial skills and their scores on math and verbal exams. At a time when too many arts education programs are the first to be cut and the last to be added, all of us must send a clear message. When it comes igniting our children’s ability to learn and imagine, the arts must be just as central to our children’s education as the three R’s.”

— *Hillary Rodnam Clinton*

“I believe education in music, theater, dance, and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just underneath the surface.”

— *Richard W. Riley, W.S. Secretary of Education*

“All of us at Time Warner Cable of New York feel honored to work with VH1 and Chancellor Crew on the Save The Music campaign...Not only does a healthy school system increase the pool of highly skilled labor that local businesses rely on, but it also produces a more stable economy for the City.”

— *Barry Rosenblum, President, Time Warner Cable of New York City*

“There are many outstanding learning opportunities taking place in our schools each day... While there are often obstacles to learning for today’s young people, studies have shown that students who study music and arts learn better, read better, and score better on standardized tests.”

— *Rudolph Crew, Chancellor, Board of Education of the City of New York City*

“I believe that as a part of the educational process, each child should have access to a music education program. That is part of a well-rounded education and can provide so much joy, now and in the future.”

— *Rudolph Giuliani, Mayor, City of New York*

“There is, of course, a practical reason for arts education ---- indeed, for liberal education: as I said in *Winning the Brain Race*, a book I co-authored with Denis P. Doyle, “a liberal education not only imparts the great lessons of history, citizenship, and science, it teaches people to think, to solve problems, to take risks...to think independently, to step back from problems and the crowd, to be an entrepreneur and innovator. The virtues of a free enterprise in general and the high tech, knowledge-based society in particular: flexibility, adaptability, inventiveness, even playfulness.”

— *David T. Kearns, Former Chairman and CEO, Xerox Corporation.*

“Experiences in the arts teach skills that can be transferred to the workplace, among them the skills of allocating the resources of time, money, materials and staff; interpersonal skills such as teamwork, negotiating, leading, and working with other cultures; information skills such as acquiring, evaluating, interpreting, and the skills required to select and use technology.”

Arnold Packer, in *Preparing for Work in the 21st Century*

Arts education and science education should not be ‘bargained off against one another’ because the two are connected by ‘natural links’: teamwork, design, innovation, communication, thinking critically and developing discipline. It is not a question of science or the arts but of how to bring both together in the classroom.

Shirley Malcom, American Association for the Advancement of Science

“I would like to thank you so much for the instruments you so generously gave to our school. I wish you could see the look on my students faces when they saw these instruments. Being able to actually hold and play these instruments is an experience that many of these children would never have otherwise had... thank you again for your kindness and generosity.”

— *Sharon Golub, Music Teacher, P.S. 11, New York City*

“I like music because when we are playing our instruments, everybody is the same and we are all together. There is no rich or poor, cool or not cool, black or white. It makes me feel good.”

— *Joey Baxter, student, age 12*

