

1. Band is a Science: It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph that indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.
2. Band is Mathematical: It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions that must be done instantaneously, not worked on paper.
3. Band is a Foreign Language: Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English, but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of band is the most complete and universal language.
4. Band is History: Band usually reflects the environment, nation, and the period it is in.
5. Band is Physical Education: It requires fantastic kinesthetic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sounds the ear hears and the mind interprets.
6. Band Develops Insight and Demands Research
Band is all of these things, but most of all...BAND IS ART.
It allows a human being to take all these musical techniques and use them to communicate and create emotion.

That is why schools teach band, why it is part of the curriculum:

Not because they expect you to major in band after high school;

Not because they expect you to play or sing all your life.

Students study instrumental music in schools -

so you will be human

so you will recognize beauty

so you will be closer to an infinite God beyond this world

so you will have something to cling to

so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more goodness,

in short, more life!

Anonymous