



Fact Sheet

How Children Benefit from Music Education In Schools

Research tells us **children who play music do better in school** and in life.

- A recent Gallup Poll revealed that **94 percent of Americans consider music to be part of a well-rounded education**. (Source: NAMM Gallup poll 2006.)
- A Columbia University study revealed that **students in the arts are found to be more cooperative** with teachers and peers, **more self-confident** and **better able to express their ideas**. (Source: Burton, J., Horowitz, R., Abeles, H. *Champions of Change*, Arts Education Partnership, 1999.)
- Students indicate that **arts participation motivates them to stay in school**, and that **the arts create a supportive environment that promotes constructive acceptance of criticism** and one in which it is safe to take risks. (Source: Barry, N., Taylor, K. and K. Walls *Critical Links: Learning in the Arts and Student Academic and Social Development*, AEP, 2002.)
- **Young children who received a year of musical training** showed brain changes and **superior memory compared** with children who did not receive the instruction. (Source: Fujioka, T., Ross, B., Kakigi, R., Pantev, C., and Trainor, L., *Brain, A Journal Of Neurology*; Oxford University Press, Sept. 2006.)
- A study examined the influence of music education on nonmusical abilities, the effects of music lessons on academic performance, and cognitive abilities. The study revealed that **students who participated in music lessons showed statistically higher intelligence quotients**. (Source: Glenn Schellenberg, *Music Lessons Enhance IQ*, *Psychological Science*, Vol. 15, No. 8, 2004.)
- A study of rural and urban inner-city schools found that **arts programs helped schools in economically disadvantaged communities develop students' critical-thinking and problem solving skills**. (Source: Stevenson, L., Deasy, R., *Third Space: When Learning Matters*, AEP, 2005.)
- **With music in schools, students connect to each other better**—greater camaraderie, fewer fights, less racism and reduced use of hurtful sarcasm. (Source: Jensen, E., *Arts With the Brain In Mind*, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2001.)
- The vast majority—**96 percent**—of the **school principals** interviewed in a recent study **agree that participation in music education encourages and motivates students to stay in school**. Further, **89 percent of principals** feel that a high-quality music education program **contributes to their school achieving higher graduation rates**. (Source: Harris Interactive Poll, 2006.)
- The **skills gained through sequential music instruction**, including discipline and the ability to analyze, solve problems, communicate and work cooperatively, **are vital for success in the 21st century workplace**. (Source: U.S. House of Representatives, *Concurrent Resolution 355*, March 6, 2006.)