

“

Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective.

”

—Bill Clinton, former U.S. president



“

Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.

”

—Victor Hugo, poet

“

Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them—a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement.

The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.

”

—Gerald Ford, former U.S. president



Visit www.menc.org and search “Power of Music” for more Elementary School Principal Resources.

For more information or to order these resources and additional advocacy brochures, please contact:

MENC: The National Association for Music Education
1806 Robert Fulton Drive
Reston, VA 20191
800-336-3768



This advocacy kit was developed by MENC: The National Association for Music Education.

Copyright © 2007 by MENC: The National Association for Music Education

PHOTOS BY: JIM KIRBY AND MARK REGAN



4033

A Guide for Elementary School Principals

The Power of Music

...Changing Lives



Supporting Music Education in Our Schools





The Many Benefits of Music Education

Young minds are especially receptive to the beauty and excitement of music. Principals, school boards, and parents all have the ability to substantially aid music educators in their quest to enrich children's minds through music. A growing body of research supports the value of music education at the elementary school level:

- Music instruction enhances young children's spatio-temporal intelligence—a measure related to learning potential in math and science.*
- Elementary students who were given an enriched, sequential, skill-building music program showed marked improvement in reading and math skills.*
- Strong programs in music and the other arts have a demonstrated positive effect on the atmosphere of the school as a whole.*

In short, music education is an integral part of elementary students' success. Fostering a strong music program in your school will help with achieving your goals as a leader in the education community, and, most of all, will aid the growth and development of children in your school.

Nurturing Music Education

Supporting your school's music teachers can have powerful effects. School music programs have a profound impact on the academic development of elementary school children. There are many simple, time-effective ways to aid your school's music educators:

Create and Foster an Environment of Support

- Study the ways that music education develops creativity, enhances cooperative learning, instills disciplined work habits, and correlates with gains in standardized test scores.*
- Make clear that all students, not just the gifted, talented, or affluent, deserve the opportunity to achieve high levels of skill in music.*

Communicate Support

- Ask music advocates to speak at PTA and community meetings, or simply ask your music teachers to set up performances to keep the education community apprised of students' achievements.



- Share your students' successes with district colleagues. Include articles in school and district newsletters to communicate the value of music in a student's education.
- Encourage music teachers to support their cause by writing articles in local newspapers, professional journals, or by blogging online about the value of music education.
- If your district hosts in-service training for music teachers, attend a seminar and gain a more thorough understanding of the challenges faced by your school's music teachers.
- Track the resources used in your school to support music education. Share this information with your school board, parents, and the community at-large, and compare progress with other local schools and with the national Opportunity-to-Learn Standards for Music Instruction.

* Visit www.menc.org and search "Power of Music" for more Elementary School Principal Resources.