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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

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

—Victor Hugo, poet

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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 Secondary School Principal Resources.

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

MENC: The National Association for Music Education
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A Guide for Secondary School Principals

The Power of Music

...Changing Lives



Supporting Music Education in Our Schools





The Many Benefits of Music Education

Students at the secondary school level are faced with an overwhelming variety of academic pressures. Music education can get lost in the shuffle. Federal legislation defines the arts as a core academic subject; and yet music and the other arts face more frequent cutbacks than any other subjects. It is important that music remain a core element in every child's education. A growing body of research supports the value of music education at the secondary school level:

- Schools that have music programs have significantly higher graduation rates than those without music programs (90.2 percent compared to 72.9 percent).*
- On average, students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math section of the SAT than did students with no music participation.*

In short, music education is an integral part of secondary students' success. Fostering a strong music program in your school will help you achieve your goals as a leader in the education community, and, most of all, will aid the growth and development of students 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 secondary students. Here are some simple, time-effective ways to assist 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.*
- Provide adequate funding for instruments and music education materials.
- Make certain that your school has a fully staffed faculty of certified music teachers.

Communicate Constructively

- Make statistical studies and research supporting the value of music education at



the secondary school level available to other administrators and school boards.

- Ask music advocates to speak at PTA and community meetings, or ask your music teacher to set up performances to keep the education community apprised of students' achievements.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Determine how much instructional time and money is invested in music education. Share this information with your school board, parents, and the community at large.

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