

Back to School Welcome Speech

Welcome, I'd like to say that I'm really looking forward to teaching [*blank, e.g. 8th grade chorus*] this [*year, semester, quarter*].

I'm so pleased that we're able to work together to learn music. Did you know that, in addition to being fun and a great way to round out the education of the whole child:

- 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.¹
- There is a positive association of music with lifelong educational attainment and higher income. Nearly nine in ten people with post-graduate degrees participated in music education. Further, 83 percent of those with incomes higher than \$150,000 or more participated in music.²
- Schools that have music programs have significantly higher graduation rates than do those without programs. In addition, those that rate their programs as "excellent" or "very good" have an even higher graduation rate of 90 percent. Schools that have music programs have significantly higher attendance rates than do those without programs.³

I'm certain that none of these facts come as too big a surprise; as a music teacher, I've long been aware that the kids in music class just seem to do better than their peers who don't study music. Maybe it's the discipline involved in music study. Maybe it's the way that students can grasp immediately and personally how well they're doing when we perform a piece. And maybe it's because all of our students value music so highly.

Please help your students excel in my music class by: [*Insert desires for specific parent support, such as: parent participation with aiding practice, monitoring homework, volunteering to help in any way needed, etc.*]

Again, welcome, and I'm certain that we'll have a great time together in the coming [*year, semester, quarter*].

¹ *The Student Descriptive Questionnaire, The College Board, Profile of College-Bound Seniors National Report for 2006*

² *The Harris Poll® #112, November 12, 2007; Those with More Education and Higher Household Incomes are More Likely to Have Had Music Education*

³ *The Harris Poll® Spring 2006; Music Programs Contribute to Higher Attendance and Graduation Rates*