

CREATAHOLIC

**PRESENTATION NOTES:
BENEFITS OF A
MUSICAL EDUCATION**



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The Benefits of a Musical Education

There are so many benefits to a musical education. Today, I will focus on four general benefits.

1) Academics.

In music, children learn to count and understand time signatures. Time signatures and note values that children learn during the course of their lessons that also introduce them to fractions and division. Children also learn about the musical alphabet and the sounds of those letters. Most children are extremely happy to recite their ABC's in music class after being introduced to "ABCDEFGG", which is the musical alphabet, or the notes on a piano. So not only are your children introduced to mathematics, but language skills too. Many teachers encourage their students to sing while they play the piano. Learning the words to all of the songs in their books whilst playing the music on the page. In fact, most children, if they play a song enough times don't even look at the music anymore. They have memorized the song. They have developed their capabilities in Math, Language Arts, and cognitive functions in their brain associated with eye-hand co-ordination and development of memory. The development of memory will benefit them throughout their lives, especially when they are studying for tests in school. Music skills transfer to many other skills such as study skills, communication skills, spatial-temporal and cognitive skills that are used in every part of a student's school curriculum and further into their adult lives.

Erica Starks says that "The physical component of learning and practicing any instrument will help improve fine motor skills in addition to gaining new ones.

The hand-eye coordination honed with properly handling and playing an instrument will also be an exceptional benefit to any person who pursues a tactile-based career later in life.

Now I'll give you a few statistics:

* A study of 237 second grade children used piano keyboard training and newly designed math software to demonstrate improvement in math skills. The group scored 27% higher on proportional math and fractions tests than children that used only the math software. *Graziano, Amy, Matthew Peterson, and Gordon Shaw, "Enhanced learning of proportional math through music training and spatial-temporal training." Neurological Research 21 (March 1999).*

* A University of California (Irvine) study showed that after eight months of keyboard lessons, preschoolers showed a 46% boost in their spatial reasoning IQ. *Rauscher, Shaw, Levine, Ky and Wright, "Music and Spatial Task Performance: A Causal Relationship," University of California, Irvine, 1994*

* Students with coursework/experience in music performance and music appreciation scored higher on the SAT: students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math, and students in music appreciation scored 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on the math, than did students with no arts participation. *College-Bound Seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers. Princeton, NJ: The College Entrance Examination Board, 2001.*

2) Performance increases self-confidence

If children are introduced to the world of performance in a gentle and supportive manner, ensuring success in their first few performances, they will grow to enjoy the opportunities to share their music and music skills with others, whether it be for family and friends, or in a festival concert. Not only does this increase their self-confidence in music, but children will be more likely to participate in classroom and school activities that require some sort of “performance” skill, which could be as simple as raising their hand to answer a question in front of 25 classmates. Or it could be the desire to participate in school productions or concerts. Whatever your child decides to perform in, it is a reminder that your child has developed self-confidence and strengthened their willingness to take risks. They also learn how to deal with anxiety and stress when introduced to performance in a supportive and constructive manner.

* Students who participated in arts programs in selected elementary and middle schools in New York City showed significant increases in self-esteem and thinking skills. *National Arts Education Research Center, New York University, 1990*

"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 President, United States of America*

3) The opportunity to develop social skills through music

Students who learn music in group programs are introduced to making music with others from an early age. They will adapt easily to school learning which

is now based on collaborate, or group, learning. Just as there are different parts for musicians in a band, these children will already understand that there are different jobs within a group because of their music experience. They will understand the organic principle of shared labour as they will transfer their knowledge of playing music as a group, to learning as a group.

From this basic principle, learned in the early years, students are more likely to participate in choirs and bands throughout their school career and well into university life. Universities offer programs for non-majors that include orchestras and ensembles. What a wonderful way to decrease stress and meet new people... playing music with a group.

* According to statistics compiled by the National Data Resource Center, students who can be classified as "disruptive" (based on factors such as frequent skipping of classes, times in trouble, in-school suspensions, disciplinary reasons given, arrests, and drop-outs) total 12.14 percent of the total school population. In contrast, only 8.08 percent of students involved in music classes meet the same criteria as "disruptive." *Based on data from the NELs:88 (National Education Longitudinal Study), second follow-up, 1992.*

4) Develops a sense of musical appreciation that they will keep for all of their lives.

Students introduced to a variety of music genres and styles from an early age are more likely to have an eclectic listening "play-list" when they are older. If we introduce our children to world music, classical music, blues, jazz, rock, funk, hip-hop, or even folk music we are giving them a vast knowledge of music that they will benefit from as adults. They will be able to enjoy going to different social events and

concerts. They will be able to discuss music with their peers in an intelligible and more tolerant way. This is music appreciation. They will use music throughout their daily lives as if it were a soundtrack. In the morning during breakfast, driving to school or work, sitting on the bus... what wonderful occasion do you always remember when a certain song is played. Which artist do you like to listen to when you are stressed. Which type of music do you like to listen to when it is Saturday night and you are getting ready for a fun party. This is all part of music appreciation that can begin with a good music program and encouraging parents.

* "Music has a great power for bringing people together. With so many forces in this world acting to drive wedges between people, it's important to preserve those things that help us experience our common humanity." *Ted Turner, Turner Broadcasting System.*

* "Music is one way for young people to connect with themselves, but it is also a bridge for connecting with others. Through music, we can introduce children to the richness and diversity of the human family and to the myriad rhythms of life." *Daniel A. Carp, Eastman Kodak Company Chairman and CEO.*

At PTA Music, we are devoted to presenting our students with a well rounded program and encouraging environment. We are proud to employ teachers who genuinely care about the development of each of their students. They take it personally when a student attends a festival or exam and are often just as nervous or excited as the student who is performing. Our teachers devote themselves to their students learning as shown in our "Teacher's Pledge".