

# **20 Reasons Why Music is Important in Education**

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In a 1995 study, music students who participated in pullout lessons averaged higher scores than non-pullout students in all areas of the Ohio Proficiency Test. *Journal of Research in Music Education, 1998*

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- The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weakness in American education and better prepare workers for the 21st Century.  
*Business Week, October 1996*

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- 92% of people who play an instrument say they were glad they learned to do so.  
*Gallup Poll 2000*

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- In academic situations, students in music programs are less likely to draw unfounded conclusions.  
*Federal Study, 1999*

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- The scores of elementary instrumental music students on standardized math test increased with each year they participated in the instrumental program.

*Nature, May 26, 1996*

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- A study showed student absence from class to study a musical instrument does not result in lower academic achievement. They found no difference in academic achievement between sixth grade students who were excused from class for instrumental study and those who were not, matching variables of sex, race, IQ, cumulative achievement, school attended, and classroom teacher. *United Musical Instruments USA, Inc., 1995*

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- In a 2000 survey, 73% of respondents agree that teens that play an instrument are less likely to have discipline problems. *American Music Conference, 2000*



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- Students who can perform complex rhythms can also make faster and more precise corrections in many academic and physical situations. *Center for Timing, Coordination, and Motor Skills, 2000*

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- One group of elementary students received musical training, while another group received an equal amount of discussion skills training. After six months, the students in the music group achieved a significant increase in reading test scores, while the reading test scores of the discussion skills group did not change. *Journal of Research in Reading, 1994*

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- According to a 1991 study, students in schools with arts-focused curriculums reported significantly more positive perceptions about their academic abilities than students in a comparison group. *The Humanitas Program Evaluation, 1991.*

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- In a study of approximately 7,500 students at a medium university between 1983 and 1988, music and music education majors had the highest reading scores of any students on campus, including those majoring in English, biology, chemistry and mathematics. *ERIC Document Number ED327480.*

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- Students who are rhythmically skilled also tend to better plan, sequence, and coordinate actions in their daily lives.  
*TCAMS Professional Resource Center, 2000.*

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- College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression and open-mindedness. *The Associated Press, October, 1999*

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- On the 1999 SAT, music students continue to outperform their non-arts peers, scoring 61 points higher on the verbal portion and 42 points higher on the math portion of the exam.  
*Music Educators Journal, September, 2000.*

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- Students with good rhythmic performance ability can more easily detect and differentiate between patterns in math, music, science and the visual arts. *TCAMS Professional Resource Center, 2000.*



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- Physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants. He found that sixty-six percent (66%) of music majors who applied for medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. Forty-four (44%) percent of biochemistry majors were admitted.

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- Students in arts programs are more likely to try new things, and they can better express their own ideas to friends, teachers and parents. *The President's Council on the Arts and Humanities, 1999.*

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- A majority of the engineers and technical designers in Silicon Valley are also practicing musicians. *Center for the Arts in the Basic Curriculum, 1997.*

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- Second and third grade students who were taught fractions through musical rhythms scored 100% higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner.

*Neurological Research, March 15, 1999.*

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- **Because it's Fun.**