

“

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



To access additional parent resources, please visit:
www.menc.org/parentbrochure

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: MARK REGAN, PHOTOS.COM, AND COMSTOCK.COM



4032

A Guide for Parents

The Power of Music

...Changing Lives



Supporting Music Education in Our Schools



In cooperation with





The Many Benefits of Music Education

Traditionally, parents have been among the loudest in the chorus of voices supporting music education.

As a parent, you wield extraordinary influence over local principals, school boards, and other decision makers. By becoming involved in the advocacy process, you can make a significant difference in the quality of your child's music education program. A growing amount of statistical evidence supports the music education cause at all levels of education:

- 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 students' success. Fostering a strong music program in your child's school will help you achieve your goals as a leader in your community and as a parent.

Nurturing Music Education

Supporting your child's school music teachers can have powerful effects. School music programs have a profound impact on the academic development

of students. Here are some simple, time-effective ways to assist your child's school music educators:

Assess the Status Quo

- Study the ways that music education develops creativity, enhances cooperative learning, instills disciplined work habits, and statistically correlates with gains in standardized test scores.*
- Speak with your local school board about your desire to have a strong music education for your child.
- Find out if your school's music program passes muster with national Opportunity-to-Learn Standards—take the "rate your school program" quiz on SupportMusic.com.
- Find out if music classes in your schools are taught by teachers certified in the arts; see to it that arts specialists are required by policy.



Communicate Constructively

- Speak at meetings of your school board about the importance of supporting music education with funds for teacher training, equipment and supplies, and music-related activities.
- Be in touch with local music teachers on a regular basis. Offer to help out.
- Ask yourself why your children need high-quality music education. Be able to articulate the answers to teachers, administrators, and other parents.
- Take part in your school's music booster organization.
- Make certain that your local media give adequate coverage to the accomplishments of your school's music program.
- Call together individuals who support music education as a subset of your PTA, as an extension of your school booster program, or as a stand-alone group.
- Coordinate your local advocacy activities with the national scene; sign up on MusicFriends.org.

* See Parent Resources at www.menc.org/parentbrochure