

## Music Advocacy's Top Ten for Directors

1. The 1997 Gallup Survey on Americans' attitudes toward music revealed that eighty-six percent (86%) of adults agree that all schools should offer instrumental music as part of the regular curriculum. The same percentage endorses community financial support for school music education.
2. Students with coursework/experience in music performance scored 52 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT and 36 points higher on the math portion than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.  
- *Profiles of SAT and Achievement Test Takers*, The College Board, 1998.
3. A 1985 study by Edward Kvet showed that student absence from class to study a musical instrument does not result in lower academic achievement. He 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.  
- Cutietta, Hamann, and Walker, *Spin-Ofs: The Extra-Musical Advantages of a Musical Education*, United Musical Instruments U.S.A., Inc., 1995.
4. Researchers at the University of California - Irvine report that second-grade students given four months of piano keyboard training, as well as time playing with newly designed computer software, scored 27% higher on proportional math and fractions tests than other children.  
- Shaw, Graziano, and Peterson, *Neurological Research*, March 15, 1999
5. The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weaknesses in American education and better prepare workers for the 21st Century.  
- "The Changing Workplace is Changing Our View of Education," *Business Week*, October 1996.

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6. A study of 811 high school students indicated that the percentage of minority students with a music teacher role model was significantly higher than for teachers of any other discipline. Thirty-six percent (36%) of these students identified music teachers as their role model, compared to 28% English teachers, 11% elementary teachers, and 7% physical education/sports teachers.

- D.L. Hamann and L.M. Walker, "Music Teachers as Role Models for African-American Students," *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 1993.

7. Longer arts study means higher SAT scores. Students participating in arts courses for two years averaged 29 points higher on the verbal portion and 18 points higher on the math portion of the SAT than students with no coursework or experience in the arts. Students with four or more years in the arts scored 57 points higher and 19 points higher on the verbal and math portions, respectively.

- *Profiles of SAT and Achievement Test Takers*, The College Board, 1998.

8. Admissions officers at 70 percent of the nation's major universities have stated that high school credit and achievement in the arts are significant considerations for admission to their institutions.

9. In a study of approximately 7,500 students at a medium-size 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.

Peter H. Wood, "The Comparative Academic Abilities of Students in Education and in Other Areas of a Multi-focus University," *ERIC Document Number ED327480*.

10. 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 to medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. Forty-four percent (44%) of bio-chemistry majors were admitted.

"The Case for Music in the Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan*, 1994

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1. In a 1995 study in Hamilton, Ohio, string students who participated in pullout lessons averaged higher scores than the non-pullout students in all areas of the Ohio Proficiency Test. Sixty-eight (68) percent of the string students achieved satisfactory ratings on all sections of the test, compared to fifty-eight (58) percent of the non-pullout students.  
- Michael D. Wallick, "A Comparison Study of the Ohio Proficiency Test Results Between Fourth-Grade String Pullout Students and Those of Matched Ability," *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 1998.
2. According to a 2000 survey, eighty-one (81) percent of people responding believe that participating in school music corresponds with better grades and test scores. This is an increase of fourteen (14) percent over the 1997 results for the same question.  
- *Attitudes*, NAMM (International Music Products Association), 2000.
3. More music teachers are role models for minority students than teachers of any other subject. Thirty-six (36) percent of surveyed minority students identified music teachers as their role models, compared to twenty-eight (28) percent for English teachers, eleven (11) percent for elementary teachers, and seven (7) percent for physical education teachers.  
- "Music teachers as role models for African-American students," *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 1993.
4. Only thirty-one (31) percent of teenagers and adults in a 2000 survey who do not play an instrument feel they are too old to start learning.  
- *Americans Love Making Music – And Value Music Education More Highly Than Ever*, American Music Conference, 2000.
5. Researchers at the University of California and the Niigata Brain Research Institute in Japan have found an area of the brain that is activated only when reading musical scores.  
- "Musical Brain – Special Brain Area Found for Reading Music Scores," *NeuroReport*, 1998.

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6. In the 1998 federal study *Gaining the Arts Advantage*, music teachers in many of the strongest arts programs nationwide are encouraged by their schools to perform in their communities and to improve their own performing skills.

- *Gaining the Arts Advantage*, The President's Council on the Arts and Humanities, 1998.

7. Ninety-two (92) percent of people who play an instrument say they were glad they learned to do so, according to a 2000 Gallup Poll.

- *Gallup Poll Shows Strong Support for Putting Music in Every School's Curriculum*, Giles Communications, 2000.

8. In academic situations, students in music programs are less likely to draw unfounded conclusions.

- *Champions of Change*, Federal study, 1999.

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

- "Music Training Helps Underachievers," *Nature*, May 26, 1996.

10. Nine out of ten adults and teenagers who play instruments agree that music making brings the family closer together.

- *Music Making and Our Schools*, American Music Conference, 2000.