

You, the Parents, and the Basics of Successful Advocacy:



The New Nuts & Bolts Of Keeping Music and Arts Education Strong

Sandra Kilpatrick Jordan

Scientific Research Shows **MUSIC STUDY** Helps Young Minds Develop...



- Music is a basic building block of intelligence
- Playing music develops critical neural connections



Research Reveals Strong Correlations Between Quality **MUSIC EDUCATION** in School and...

- Academic achievement
- Healthy social development
- Preparation for the 21st century workplace
- Quality of a young person's life

Research Reveals:



- **Children taking music lessons improved more over the year on several memory skill tests . . .**
- **. . . than did children not taking music lessons.**



Why Parents?

- **Right to access to quality education for their children**
- **Silent majority can become vocal**
- **Disciplined and expressive arts reflect cultures, values, histories and day-to-day realities**

Nuts & Bolts for Parents



- **Advocacy tools**
- **Current research**
- **Coalitions of like-minded parents and community leaders**
- **Commitment to turn passion into action**



MUSIC STUDENTS

Score Higher on SATs

- Average **57** points higher in verbal
- Average **41** points higher in math



MUSIC EDUCATION ADVOCACY TOOLS

- SupportMusic.com
- **Keep Music Education Strong Brochure**
- **SupportMusic Community Action Kit**
- **House Concurrent Resolution 121**

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 355

Recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based music education,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2006

Mr. COOPER (for himself and Mr. PORTER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the benefits and importance of school-based
music education, and for other purposes.

Whereas school music programs enhance intellectual development and enrich the academic environment for students of all ages;

Whereas students who participate in school music programs are less likely to be involved with drugs, gangs, or alcohol and have better attendance in school;

Whereas the skills gained through sequential music instruction, including discipline and the ability to analyze, solve problems, communicate, and work cooperatively, are vital for success in the 21st century workplace;

Whereas the majority of students attending public schools in inner city neighborhoods have virtually no access to



What We Support

- Music is a **core** subject
- It should be taught to all students
- It should be taught in all grades

CULTIVATE YOUR COMMUNITY

- **Establish a coalition of parents and stakeholders**
- **Ad hoc, flexible, creative**
- **Student-centered**
- **Not teacher or administrator-centric**



Engage the music parent!

- **Organized**
- **Committed**

» **Bring them into a discussion around the importance of ALL the arts**



SupportMusic Community Action Resources...

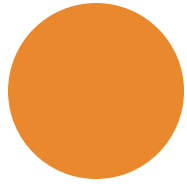


- **Register for the toolkit**
- Respond to action alerts posted at supportmusic.com
- Affiliate your organization with the SupportMusic Coalition

Tools in hand do not constitute grassroots action...

- Engage parents to act on their passion





“The challenge to American education has never been simply to raise test scores — that is a relatively recent and limited goal. The challenge has always been to raise citizens who are capable of active participation in the social, cultural, political and economic life of the world’s longest experiment in democracy, an experiment demanding a free, educated and committed citizenry. We are amazed to discover anew the role of the arts in realizing that vision and creating that democracy.”

Source: Lauren M. Stevenson and Richard J. Deasy, *Third Space: When Learning Matters*, Arts Education Partnership, 2005.

