

Dear Parents,

As your child enters **fifth and sixth grade**, the General Music teachers of the ICCSD would like to share with you some very interesting research about the value of music in our schools. We hope that during these years you will encourage your child to find time in their busy schedules for continued music instruction. As musicians, we feel that music is valuable for its own sake. However, the research listed below indicates that participation in music activities will also enhance and nourish your child in many other ways as well.

- Music activities enhance the process of learning. The systems they nourish, which include our integrated sensory, attention, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities, are shown to be the driving forces behind all other learning.
- Students who have received music instruction scored higher marks on tests of their spatial and arithmetic skills.
- Music students demonstrate less test anxiety and performance anxiety than students who do not study music.
  
- With music in schools, students connect to each other better. There is greater camaraderie, fewer fights, less racism and reduced use of hurtful sarcasm.
- Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs among any group in our society.
  
- The average scores achieved by music students on the 1999 SÂT increased for every year of musical study. This same trend was found in SAT scores of previous years.
- The college entrance Examination Board found that students in music appreciation scored 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math than students with no arts participation.
- A majority of the engineers and technical designers in Silicon Valley are also practicing musicians.

Be sure to check out the book [How to Develop Your Child's Musical Gifts and Talents](#) by Sandra Reid.

Sincerely yours,

General Music Teacher