

The Advantages of Adolescent Musicians

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Many middle and high schools offer music classes for students. Classes such as choir, orchestra, or band are options in most schools. Sadly, many schools are cutting funds for music classes such as these. The people who chose not to fund these classes argue that music takes away time from the other classes, leading to the students to perform poorly. Even though many believe that music is pointless for adolescents, it has been proven that playing music actually benefits these teenage students.

To begin with, playing music benefits teenage students because learning music requires them to learn how to collaborate. Graduate Programs for Educators, a program helping people get degrees in education, researched (by a music teacher) the benefits of music in a school setting. They concluded that, "Students quickly learn to value the opinions and ideas of others and how to efficiently combine those thoughts to complete the task at hand" (Graduate Programs for Educators). Because of music, students learn important skills in life such as how to work with others. Students who can easily work with others are more prepared for adulthood. To participate in the community, people need to be able to work together. Playing music helps teenage students by preparing them for adulthood through teaching them how to work together, benefitting them for the long run.

Moreover, playing music helps strengthen students' memorization skills. Youth on Record is a website that works to help musicians as well as give news to the viewers of the site. One of the ambassadors of this website, Wynn Rutberg, researched the benefits of playing music from both her experiences and other people's studies. Rutberg stated, "Reading music, or even just listening to music, helps your brain recognize patterns" (Youth on Record). When people listen or read music, their brain becomes more skilled at seeing patterns. One of the big things about school and adult life is memory. To be a functioning member of society, people need their memory. Recognizing patterns in everyday life is a big part of memory. Since memory is important in everyday life, playing music, whether singing or playing an instrument, is very helpful for teenage students.

As a final point, it has been proven that music students often score better on test scores for other classes than their nonmusical peers. The American Psychology Association, an association that studies what affects people as well as certain disorders, tested how musical and nonmusical students performed on tests. They discovered that, "On average, the children who learned to play a musical instrument for many years, and were now playing in high school band and orchestra, were the equivalent of about one academic year ahead of their peers with regard to their English, mathematics and science skills, as measured by their exam grades" (American Psychology Association). People who learned to play music were ahead in education compared to other students. One of the most important things in adolescence is test scores. Many parents get annoyed when their students don't do well and getting a good grade also makes many people feel better about themselves. This ties back to mental health. Students will be happier with themselves and are getting smarter faster than peers who decide not to play music. Happiness and intelligence are two very important contributors to teenagers, so music benefits them.

In closing, music classes matter in schools because they are a choice for students to express themselves. Music teaches many important life skills such as the ability to work together with other students and memorization skills. These students score higher on tests as well. If students don't have this option in the future, the generation of teenagers would be denied the chance to help them with important life skills. School boards should consider funding music classes for students.

Works Cited

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