

Why Music? The 4 Cs

School Curriculum, use of academic time, and the applicable value of knowledge brought to the classroom are all being discussed in today's society. With an emphasis on "back to basics/" it becomes increasingly more significant to bring the importance of music to the forefront of this ongoing discussion. Why should a young person consider joining the band (choir, orchestra)? How long should they stay in choir (orchestra, band)? What will it mean in their life?

Creativity: Creativity is the source of all possibilities. We are constantly challenged to explore this area of the mind. Music appeals to the part of the mind which opens new horizons. The study of music supports wonderment, imagination, appreciation, and sensitivity. Music allows us to experience creativity as an inventive thinking style.

Communication: Music is a language unto itself. Music can only be explained by music. If we do not expose the human to music, we are depriving the individual of an array of personal understandings that cannot be found in any other part of life.

Critical Assessment: Intelligence is the ability to process facts and respond according to the given situation. Emotional stability stems from the capacity to deal with life's many inconsistencies. To accomplish both, the individual must be able to access the cognitive (factual) and affective (emotional) sides of the mind. Music is one of the few academic disciplines which demands this ability and reinforces learning patterns to allow for greater critical assessment.

Commitment: Success is not measured by what we start, but rather by what we complete. In music, every student will be required to perform the entire composition from beginning to end. Although there may be errors in the performance, it is most unusual to see an individual simply stop and put their instrument away. The important qualities of tenacity and persistence establish habits for positive, productive living. These attributes can be found in many subject areas; however, MUSIC does not make these optional, but a fundamental necessity from the first note ever played or sung. Participation at the level of excellence is not a personal preference; it is a requirement. Success breeds success in every avenue of life. Therefore, a successful and well-trained musician does tackle life "with knowledge of what it takes to get there," and the wisdom of "what it brings to life."