

From: [REDACTED]

Facts About School Music

● **Music makes a contribution to kids' development that no other subject can match.** Music education uniquely contributes to the emotional, physical, social and cognitive growth of all students. National Review of School Music Education, Australia, 2005.

● **Music students are more likely to be good citizens.** A 10-year US study called 'Champions of Change' found that high school students who participate in arts programs, including school bands, are less likely to be involved with drugs, crime or have behavioural problems.

● **Learning music helps under-performing students improve.** US researches found that young children aged 5-7 who had been lagging behind at school had caught up with their peers in reading and were ahead in maths after seven months of music lessons. The children's classroom attitudes and behaviour improved too.

● **Musical training can enhance brain function.** Brain imaging techniques (MRI) reveal that musical tasks such as sight-reading musical scores and playing music activate regions in all four lobes of the brain and parts of the cerebellum. Music is one of the few activities which engage the entire brain.

● **Playing music improves concentration, memory and ability to express feelings.** A 2001 study in Switzerland involving more than 1200 children found that, when 3 other curriculum classes were replaced with music classes, young children made more rapid developments in speech and learned to read easier. They also learned to like each other more, were less stressed and enjoyed school more.

● **Australian parents want their kids to learn music at school.** Household surveys by the Australian Music Association show that nearly 90% of respondents believe music education should be mandatory in Australian schools.

● **Many kids miss out on effective music education while at school.** Effective music education is flontinuous, sequential and developmental. That is, it starts early in a child's life, keeps going as the child progresses through school and is in step with the child's capabilities (ie: **learning to play a musical instrument**). Almost 9 out of 10 independent schools offer this kind of program. It should be available to ALL students in EVERY school.

● **Music has a special power to unite a community, to unite children, to build a sense of teamwork, while, at the same time, promote the worth of the individual.** Give Me Excess Of It, Richard Gill, 2012