Benefits of Music Education
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Educators widely recognize that the quality of preparation in middle school often determines whether young people will succeed in high school and beyond. School music programs including general music, band, choir and orchestra can greatly enhance student’s academic experiences in middle school. Research has shown that school music programs improve students’ intellectual, emotional and social development. Here are a few of the many benefits of participating in school music programs:

School music programs…

- Foster creativity
- Teach the importance of teamwork
- Increase self-esteem
- Teach self-discipline
- Increase standardized test scores
- Help students achieve better grades
- Develop compassion and empathy
- Provide students with a means of self-expression
- And most importantly, demonstrate the connection between study, hard work, and high levels of achievement.

Parents play an important role in supporting school music programs. Parent support ensures the success of these programs, which in turn, enhances the success of their children.

Here are some simple ways to help support your local school music program:

- Speak at meetings of your school board about the importance of supporting music education.
- Insist that music classes are taught by certified arts specialists.
- Keep in touch with music teachers and offer a helping hand.
- Take part in your school’s music booster organization.
- Invite your local media to cover to the accomplishments of your school’s music programs.

If you are interested in learning more about the benefits of music education and finding out more ways you can help support music in your school you can visit www.menc.org for more parent resources.

For more newsletters like this and information about the Collaborative on Early Adolescence, visit http://www.niu.edu/cea/.