

BE A MUSIC & ARTS EDUCATION ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS!

Music Makes Us Whole is the initiative of several dozen Minnesota non-profit and for-profit organizations that believe every child deserves a rich music education. We advocate for this because of music's intrinsic value in the human experience, and also for the whole-brain and whole-life benefits to the child as well as his or her community. MNSOTA is proud to be a partner in Music Makes Us Whole.

Why is music and arts education important to students?

- Music and arts education gives students ways to communicate, understand the world, and create. Students also receive the simple and profound gift of music and art making as an essential part of education.
- As students participate in the arts, they gain the skills employers most want of teamwork, communication, problem-solving.
- Music training can assist in creating a better learner and help reduce the achievement gap.
- 9 out of 10 American adults believe the arts are part of a well-rounded education.
- Ability to keep a beat and match rhythm patterns is linked to early reading skills for preschoolers. Benefits persist through high school.
- Music training for students stimulates nearly every region of the brain, strengthening those regions used for complex math and abstract-thinking skills.
- Low-income students who took music lessons in grades 8-12 saw math, reading, history, geography and social skills soar by 40% compared to non-music students.

Research is important. Just as critical is your personal story about the impact of music and arts learning in your life, or in the

life of a child. Get ready to share the research and your story.

What do I do next?

Contact your school board members and your superintendent and/or principal by phone or e-mail and ask: "Can you tell me what arts courses are offered to students in all grade levels during the school day? (Not after school)"

MN Statutes 2014, Section 120B.021, subd. 1 says:

"The following subject areas are required for statewide accountability: ...the arts, for which statewide or locally developed academic standards apply, as determined by the school district.

- Public elementary and middle schools must *offer at least three* and *require at least two* of the following four arts areas: dance; music; theater; and visual arts.
- Public high schools must *offer at least three* and *require at least one* of the following five arts areas: media arts; dance; music; theater; and visual arts."

If your school is meeting the required music and arts subjects, say thank you and share how the music program has had a positive impact on you and/or your children. If the school is not offering the required music and arts subjects, respectfully ask why not, and how they plan on fixing this inequity. †