



broader minded

THINK BEYOND THE BUBBLES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *for* MUSIC EDUCATION



MUSIC HELPS educate the whole student.

STUDIES HAVE SHOWN US THE CLEAR LINK BETWEEN MUSIC EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. THIS TANGIBLE IMPACT ON THE INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS SHOULD BE CONTINUALLY REINFORCED. HOWEVER, WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE OTHER BENEFITS THAT MUSIC BRINGS. IT ALSO SHAPES THE WAY OUR STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THEMSELVES, OTHERS, AND THE WORLD AROUND THEM. THESE RESULTS, TOO, ARE VITAL AND QUANTIFIABLE. THIS PIECE WILL HELP YOU ARTICULATE BOTH SIDES OF THE BROADER-MINDED ARGUMENT FOR KEEPING MUSIC EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS.

REASONING

DISCIPLINE

MEMORY

PROCESS

INGENUITY

STRUCTURE

SUPPORTING THE ARGUMENT FOR music's role in academic success.

FOCUS

ACHIEVEMENT

TANGIBILITY

ANALYSIS

CALCULATION

INSIDE THE BUBBLES



academic achievement

IMPROVED READING SKILLS

The combined results of 30 studies indicate that music instruction has a significant positive effect on reading.

Update: Applications of Research in Music Education, 2008

HIGHER GRADE POINT AVERAGES

High school music students have better grades than non-musicians in the same school.

National Educational Longitudinal Study, 1988

SPATIAL REASONING ABILITIES

Multiple studies indicate that early music instruction is linked to significant improvements in spatial reasoning.



brain development

PROCESSING SOUND AND STAYING FOCUSED

Studies have shown that diligent instrument training from an early age can help the brain remain focused when absorbing other subjects, from literature to tensor calculus.

Hearing the Music, Honing the Mind, 2010

IMPROVING COGNITION

The cognitive structures developed through music instruction help to expose and illuminate more general organizing structures relevant for other disciplines.

Research in Music Education, 2009



fills gaps

STUDENTS LAGGING BEHIND

When given music instruction over seven months, this group caught up to their fellow students in reading and surpassed their classmates in math by 22 percent.

Gardiner, Fox, Jeffrey and Knowles

STUDENTS OF LOWER SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

Those who took music lessons in grades 8-12 increased their math scores significantly compared to non-music students. Reading, history, geography, and even social skills soared by 40 percent.

ENGAGEMENT

Anecdotal evidence indicates that music study helps many students stay engaged and interested not only in music class, but in their other academic work.

CREATIVITY

EXPRESSION

IDENTITY

INSPIRATION

REFLECTION

UNDERSTANDING

INTRODUCING THE BROADER MINDED argument for music.

AESTHETICS

BELONGING

IMAGINATION

EXHILARATION

CONFIDENCE



BEYOND THE BUBBLES



inherent benefits

EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Students learn to express themselves in multiple ways and become more sensitive to the preferences and feelings of others.

REFLECTIVE LEARNING

Students reflect on failures and successes through the creative process, and derive a sense of their own competencies, interests, and challenges.

PROCESS ORIENTATION

Students develop the ability to consistently refine their thinking as part of the creative process, developing an ability to re-evaluate goals and objectives and, if needed, adjust their approach to the objective.

DECISION-MAKING

Through both the creative and reflective learning process, students gain greater capacity to question, interpret, and influence their own lives.

GRIT

In a high-level performance environment, hard work and dedicated practice predict success far more than innate ability. Music performance offers opportunities to fail. Students learn the value of persistence, and of working hard for an uncertain outcome.

MULTIPLE WAYS OF KNOWING

Music study promotes fluency in knowledge systems beyond the linguistic and mathematical, enabling a deeper and broader understanding of our world and of the human experience.



21st century skills

CREATIVITY

Students learn to think about problems from a variety of viewpoints and increase problem-solving skills.

COLLABORATION

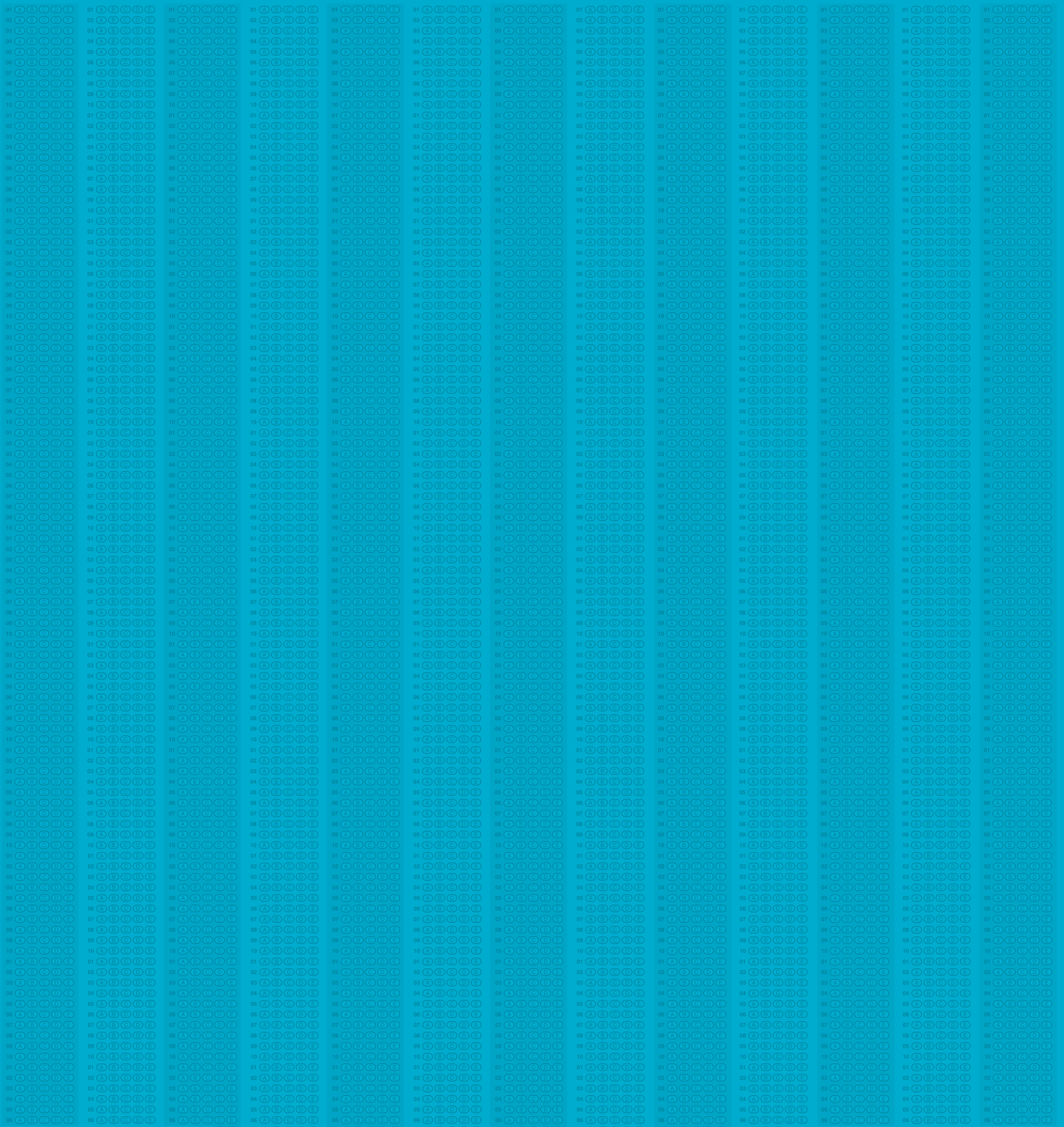
Through working together to create a finished product, students learn to incorporate different approaches and to leverage individual strengths for a higher-quality outcome.

CONFIDENCE

Through consistent performance for their peers and for audiences, music study helps students develop greater confidence in themselves and their abilities.

CRITICAL THINKING

Through the creative process, students strengthen their skills in synthesizing and evaluating information, and apply these skills to changing their assumptions and actions.



Think beyond
the bubbles.



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