



## **S p i r i t o f H a r m o n y F o u n d a t i o n**

### **Why Music Education?**

Children who participate in a robust music education program develop cognitive tools and skills that will stay with them for life. The foundation of a personal success model is established during the process of learning to play a musical instrument, and that foundation is built upon and utilized throughout their academic, personal, and professional lives.

What are some of these tools and skills?

As adults, we understand that the process of learning something new entails working through frustrations and setbacks. When children work through the challenges of learning to play a musical instrument, overcoming and succeeding, they develop a sense of accomplishment and pride as they gain self-esteem and self-confidence. Think for a moment about all the challenges we have faced as we move through our own lives, and how much better-prepared children will be when they learn the valuable lesson that, with hard work and discipline, they can successfully navigate through life's challenges.

When children participate in a band or an orchestra, they immediately acquire a self-identity, a feeling of pride, stronger motivation, and a sense of belonging, expressed when they proclaim "I am a member of the band." Very young children might not even be aware of this positive transformation, but the fact that music is something that makes them feel good is a benefit unto itself.

Playing in a band develops interpersonal skills, such as the ability to work with others. These capabilities are an integral part of high achievement, whether in a professional environment, or among family and friends, or in personal relationships. Social skills will continue to pay dividends in every phase of their lives.

There are additional benefits as well, including the advanced physical development of a child's brain, and improvements in a child's ability to listen and hear, recognize patterns, concentrate, and remember.

Ultimately the question is not "why music education?" The question is "how can we deny our children the opportunity to develop life skills and tools that will help them achieve?" As parents, concerned citizens, teachers, and administrators, we must recognize and act upon the Moral Imperative for Music Education.

Thank you.