

Musical Instruments in School

Source #1

School Music Programs

Music programs are a part of education in many elementary schools. Often, there is one music teacher who teaches music to every grade. Students may have music class once a week. Schools often have bands or orchestras, too. Students may also learn how to play musical instruments by taking lessons during school time. Then they perform a concert as a group for parents and teachers.

Often, students and their families have a choice about whether they want to play an instrument. Some families may want their children to learn more about music. Playing music has benefits that help students in other subjects in school. So, students are encouraged to play music. Also, kids might feel strongly about wanting to learn to play a certain instrument. They might want to play the flute, for example, or even the tuba.

Other times, families might want their kids to focus more on their schoolwork. Or students might have a lot of activities already. Families do not want them to have too much on their plate. Also, it usually costs money to rent a musical instrument at school. Families must consider this, as well.

Today, school music programs are starting to disappear. Many schools have tight budgets. They have to use their money to pay for things that students need, such as food for lunch and new textbooks. Music teachers and instruments cost money for schools. Some do not think that music is as important as other parts of a student's education.

The future of music programs in schools is still unknown. Only time will tell if schools continue to keep music in our schools or have it become an after-school activity.

Source #2

Every Kid Should Play an Instrument!

In the past, music used to be a big part of every student's education. But today, fewer kids are learning to play musical instruments. This should not be allowed to happen! There are many benefits to playing an instrument. These benefits help kids both in and out of school.

One important reason for kids to play an instrument is that it is good for their brains. Playing music helps kids use and improve memory skills. It gets their brains working in new and important ways. One study of preschoolers shows that kids who took keyboard lessons had more memory skills than kids who did not take lessons. Playing music also helps kids improve their motor skills. These are skills that have to do with their hands and fingers. It makes kids more coordinated. They see the music notes, and they learn to do a certain finger or slide position on their instrument.

In addition, music actually helps students in other parts of their education. Playing an instrument teaches great math and comprehension skills. Kids must learn to count notes and rhythms when they read music. Then they have to understand what to play when they see those notes.

Kids who play instruments are much more organized, too. They learn how to manage their time. Kids need to practice their instruments every week. This teaches them to be more responsible. They also learn to stay with something and improve at it over time. This is an important lesson for kids to learn!

Kids also learn the value of teamwork when they play musical instruments. They must work with other kids who are in the same band or orchestra at school. They have to listen to each other and play music at the same speed to create a song together. This helps to improve listening skills, as well. And kids often make friends while playing in a band or orchestra. Having a common goal as a group builds friendships and improves social skills.

Finally, one of the most important benefits of playing an instrument is that it's fun! Kids who play an instrument feel less stress in their lives. Often, playing an instrument makes them feel happy and good about themselves. For this reason alone, shouldn't every kid be required to play an instrument in school?

Source #3

Let Kids Have a Choice!

School music programs support the idea that all kids should play a musical instrument. They say that it helps kids improve certain skills. It also helps them enjoy school more. But I disagree. Kids should not be forced to play a musical instrument.

First of all, not all kids are the same. They are at different learning levels in school. They also have different responsibilities at home. Not every student will benefit from being taken out of class in the middle of the school day to learn to play music. Many students need to stay in class. They must work on their reading, writing, and math skills. Also, playing an instrument requires a lot of practice at home. A lot of students need to spend more time studying at home. They do not have time to practice their instruments. They might have other responsibilities, too. It is unfair to add to their responsibilities.

Second, some students might have more musical talent than others. Some kids might try very hard to learn to play an instrument. They might work on it day after day. But they might continue to struggle with it. This can be very stressful because they must do something that is too difficult for them. It might have a negative effect. Soon, these kids might begin to dislike music instead of enjoying it. Forcing a child to play an instrument would have the opposite effect of what the school wants.

Third, it costs money to play an instrument. Families must spend money to rent or buy the instrument. It is unfair to require that every kid play an instrument and then to make the family pay for it. Many families are on tight budgets. They may not be able to afford this activity for their children.

Finally, families should have a say in whether kids play an instrument. Kids should not be forced to do something that is not directly related to regular studies at school. Kids have few choices at school and often at home. They deserve to help decide if they want to spend their free time practicing an instrument or doing something else. Families should be allowed to discuss the idea together. Only then will they know if it is the right choice. For these reasons, schools should not force kids to play a musical instrument.

Directions:

The passages are discussing whether or not students should be required to play an instrument in school. Write an essay in which you give your opinion about requiring every student to learn to play a musical instrument. Use information from the sources in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can:

- Read the passages;
- Plan your responses;
- Write your response; and
- Revise and edit your response.

Be sure to include:

- an introduction
- support for your opinion using information from the passages; and
- a conclusion that is related to your opinion.

Your writing should be in the form of a well-organized, multi paragraph essay.