

Music is important in life because of many reasons. Some reasons that I feel are stronger than others include: the basis for a universal language, safe emotion projection, and individuality. Music is the one thing that everyone in the world can enjoy and appreciate. It may be slightly different in other countries but the music conveys the same stories and emotions. Some people say that love is the universal language, but love is displayed many different ways around the world, where as with music the style is different but the way that it is portrayed is the same. Few things in this world enable people to release their emotions in a safe way without hurting others. Different people may suggest to you that punching a pillow or going paint-balling is a good way to release anger, but there is a large possibility that someone could get hurt, even if you didn't intend for it to happen. Music has the ability to convey a dark and depressed emotion or even a sunny ecstatic mood. Using music to express emotions can also help others to release tension or anger just by listening to your music. Finally I feel that music is important in life because you have the ability to be an individual. Some enjoyable activities would be very difficult to do on your own, such as soccer or softball. Music is quite the contrary, you can produce music on your own, or you can play in a large ensemble. Within each aspect you can produce a different tone than the person next to you, or do something completely unique such as beat boxing while playing the flute.

Music should be taught in schools because it helps students learn about team work and leadership, improves grades, and prepares the students better for the future. Every time a person picks up an instrument to play they are going to experience either team work or leadership. When they need to practice by themselves on a solo, they are learning

the discipline or leadership it takes to better the music they are practicing. If they are playing in an ensemble they learn to balance with the rest of the band and play the music better so that the ensemble as a whole doesn't sound like it messed up. There have been quite a few theories about how classical music when played to a newborn child will become smarter, but last year when I was working on a speech I read from a science journal that students who participate in band class for three or more years had on average 4 points higher on the ACT standardized test where as non- musicians scores were lower. When you put the aspects of teamwork, leadership, and better grades; you are only bettering the student so that while in college or even once they get in to a job.

I think that the music that should be learned in school would definitely include classic composers such as Beethoven and Mozart, but I also feel that students should learn to play pieces that have an emotional value to them like Symphony #1 (In Memoriam Dresden -1945) by Daniel Bujvar, finally I would like my students to learn an important piece of music from each major country. I feel that the classic composers will teach students the technicality that makes up music. Playing classical music can also help the students to learn about the history of that time period. Emotional music teaches students to add color to their music; it also helps with new techniques introduced such as bending pitches. Lastly I would like to teach a major piece from each country, because it teaches about the style of different parts of the world, not just the United States of America. In addition, if a student is visiting the school from a different country you can use that piece of music to help welcome and make them feel as if there is a little bit of home associated with the new school.

Everyone should be able to learn music in schools. Children as young as kindergarten can begin to learn how to use solfege by using a hand motion. Kindergarten students can also be part of a human staff. This would teach the students what would happen if you rearranged the notes, and with the students being the notes they are interacting which helps them stay entertained as well. Middle school aged students I feel are the most crucial to teach because this is a make or break time in their life. Either they are going to stick with it or they are going to quit. Since this is the most critical time, there needs to be a lot of excitement, whether it is through competitions like Solo and Ensemble or just having a good time such as marching bands. High school students personally are the easiest to teach since they already have a love of music and are participating in it. Although there is going to be the gossip and cliques, older high school students tend to be more competitive with each other, it may be for what chair they get or to see who can do better at Solo and Ensemble. College students are trying to better their love no matter what the cost, such as hours of theory homework to practicing their music for a few hours each day. Adults can also learn music in school; this may be just to better themselves or to brush up on a hobby. Music can and should be learned by mentally ill students. It is a way to help them emote what they are trying to get out, even if they can't just say it out loud.

Personally, the only people who should teach music in schools are those who not only have a degree in teaching but also those who have a passion for teaching music. Whenever students get a teacher who isn't passionate about what they are teaching, the students tend to goof around and not pay attention to what is going on in the classroom. It does not matter whether it is a man or a woman teaching the students, as long as they

have a passion for music. The teacher also needs to have patience, especially when working with younger children. If the teacher is working with older students, then the teacher needs to not only be patient but also have almost a competitive drive, in order to push the students farther than they would have ever thought.