

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

As an adult, it's common to look back at things in your past and wonder, "what if?"



For example, as a child, I took piano lessons for six years.

Just as I started learning enough to play something interesting, I stopped the lessons because sports in junior high school overtook my time and interest.

Now I wish I'd made time for both.

I started thinking about this when I saw that March is Music in Our Schools Month.

The observance started in 1973 in New York as a single day and over the years has expanded, growing to a monthlong celebration in 1985, according to the National Association for Music Education .

Studies have shown that people who study music perform better in academic areas.

The Arts Education Partnership reviewed research and reported in 2011 "that music education equips students with the foundational abilities to learn, to achieve in other core academic subjects, and to develop the capacities, skills and knowledge essential for lifelong success."



According to the report, music education prepares students to learn by enhancing fine motor skills; preparing the brain for achievement; fostering superior working memory; and cultivating

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MUSIC
gives a soul to the universe
wings to the mind
flight to the imagination
AND LIFE TO EVERYTHING

~PLATO~

better thinking skills.

In addition it aids students academic achievement by improving recall and retention of verbal information; advancing math achievement; boosting reading and English language arts skills; and improving average SAT scores.

Read the full report at www.aep-arts.org/wp-content/uploads/Music-Matters.pdf.

The NAFME offers suggestions on how to celebrate the month at <https://nafme.org/programs/miosm/celebrate-music-schools-months/>.

Several lesson plans that connect with music education and appreciation can be found at www.readwritethink.org; type "music education" in the search field.

Other lesson plans can be found at www.technology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/music/.

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