HOW DOES MUSIC EDUCATION IMPACT STUDENT LEARNING?

MUSIC EDUCATION:

- Gives students access to unique ways of knowing and displaying their knowledge. Music draws on the multiple intelligences and accommodates a variety of learning styles.

- Promotes cross-cultural understanding and knowledge of civilizations and cultures, past and present, and helps students appreciate the diversity of their cultural heritage.

- Provides a universal language of communication.

- Offers means for creative expression.

- Provides opportunities for students to solve problems that require higher level thinking skills.

- Promotes active rather than passive involvement.

- Makes abstract concepts concrete and understandable for learners.

- Reaches students who are not otherwise being reached (e.g. at-risk students, economically disadvantaged, underachieving gifted and talented students, students talented in performing arts).

- Transforms how students are perceived by others, revealing abilities in learners previously unrecognized by teachers or other students.

- Builds community by providing opportunities for collaboration.

- Sharpens students’ learning-to-learn (critical thinking, problem-solving, perseverance) and social skills (team work, collaboration).

- Connects learning experiences to the real world of work (time management, discipline, commitment).

- Provides means for gathering concrete evidence of student learning (performance-based assessment).

- Teaches three processes of life-long learning: critical thinking, creativity, and reflection.

- Builds students’ self-awareness and personal skills required for success, such as planning, persistence, perseverance, and time management.