

Music Makes Us Whole

musicmakesuswhole.org



Suggested Activities for Educators & Classrooms

You CAN build support for music in your community!

Building support for your music program is important, and you can fit simple building blocks into your already busy schedule. Choose just one or a few of these activities for our launch January 2015, and build on that with other activities later in this school year or next fall. Through all of your activities –

- Remember the three key messages. “Music supports **Whole Learners, Whole Communities** and **Whole-Life Benefits.**”
- Stay positive! Emphasize the benefits students experience in music learning.
- Focus on music, music learning and music making.

In Your Classroom

- Reach out to former students to learn what they are doing today, and if/how they remain musically active. Share their accomplishments – in, through and beyond music - with your students and the school community.
- Have your students participate! Ask students to complete the sentence “**Music makes me_____.**” Post responses in your classroom, gather them and present to your principal, or include some in your concert program or email to parents. Logos and materials [available from NAFME](#).
- Feature [Music Makes Us Whole](#) on your school’s or music ensemble’s Facebook page and other social media. We’re including stories on the benefits of music – it’s as quick as a share or link!
- Include research supporting music programs in your school’s bulletin, e-newsletter, your email to parents, or concert programs.
- Print “Music Makes Me_____!” [cards](#) and have students display at your next concert.
- Have each of your students invite a favorite teacher to the next concert or music demonstration.

At Concerts

- Thank parents and family members at every public gathering - for everything they do. Ask them to pass the message along to those who can’t be there.
- Find teaching colleagues outside of music that play an instrument and ask them join your ensemble for a guest appearance.
- Have parents participate in your music-making; a song at a concert, or a parents and students informance/rehearsal before or after school.
- Invite a school administrator or school board member to a concert; ask them to introduce one of the pieces.
- Download a [Music Makes Us Whole](#) concert insert and include in your program.

In Your Community Newspaper or Local Radio Station

- Get the word out via your local newspaper.
- If you have a local/community radio station in your area, have your students do a radio announcement with their name, and perhaps sing a short excerpt.
- Provide a story for your school or district newsletter; share what you are doing in your classroom and share the research supporting music learning.
- Ask a parent or former student to write a letter to the editor in your local community newspaper. In the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, consider the Sun weekly newspapers.

<http://www.mnnews.com/webs.html>

On the Web

- Share alumni stories on Facebook or other social media. Talk about their success in music and beyond.
- Consider broadcasting or streaming one of your recorded concerts. Be sure to [review copyright information on the NAFME website](#) to learn about licenses.
- Follow organizations like Music Makes Us Whole to keep up to date with new stories and research. Share those links on your Facebook page. Parents and the community love seeing success for students.

In Your School Community

- Get your school board's calendar and schedule small student music ensembles before or during meetings.
- Have student groups do mini-concerts before school or during lunch.
- Ask your former students to send pictures of them playing or singing wherever they live. Share on social media or in your classroom. If you are sharing in your classroom, consider a map with pins marking your school's musical reach.
- Contact parents previously connected to your music program and ask for their support.
- Reach out to former students to learn what they are doing today, and if/how they remain musically active. Share their accomplishments – in, through and beyond music - with your students and the school community.
- Invite school decision-makers (principals, superintendents, school board members) into your classroom.
- Ask your current music parents to contact school board members and superintendents. Focus on building a relationship and the benefits music brings to students and to their school community.