

Today's Topic: How music study benefits post-high school plans

Can my student attend the college of their choice, even if they choose to study music for all four years of high school?

- All graduates of the Waubonsie Band have been able to attend a college or university of their choice.
- Waubonsie Music Alumni are currently attending many different universities and colleges across the country, including (but not limited to) U of I, University of Minnesota, Purdue, Northwestern, COD, BYU. Past graduates are also serving in different branches of the armed forces.
- Music students from Waubonsie have gone on to study a wide variety of majors. The most popular was Engineering.
- Students graduating from the music department have accepted scholarship money for a variety of disciplines and subjects, not just music.

Do colleges value an arts education, even if my student is not going on to study music as a career?

- The University Of Iowa School Of Engineering calls engineers “creative problem solvers,” and their admissions brochure encourages students to widen their interests by studying art, joining the marching band, or mastering a foreign language.
- Richard Shaw, dean of admissions at Stanford, is quoted as saying that Stanford, “...recommends the ARTS because of their humanizing influences, their demands for self-discipline...and their capacities to stimulate that most important of all intellectual abilities: creativity.”
- In any given year, the 350+ member Marching Illini is likely to have more engineering majors than music majors.

Beyond its aesthetic benefits, what skills can music give my child that will help them succeed?

- Music is one of the most effective ways to hone 21st Century skills (Communication, Creativity, Collaboration and Critical Thinking). Brain research reveals that making music engages almost 90% of brain capacity. There is no comparable activity that a child can engage in that activates nearly the entire cerebral cortex. Rehearsing and performing music gives students the competitive edge.
- In art classes, students are given problems to solve and criteria within which to create possible solutions. They are forced to take chances, make decisions, and deal with ambiguity. This art-making model of problem solution is much more like real-world performance than most of what goes on in schooling. In addition, it allows room for many diverse, successful solutions to the same problem.
–Jessica Hoffman Davis, author of “Why our Schools Need the Arts”