Federal Budget Update

Congress has not yet passed a new federal budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017. They have passed a continuing resolution, which supplies funding through December.

The House has passed a budget but the Senate has not. In the House version of the appropriations bill, the Corporation for National and Community Service’s Senior Corps programs, including the Foster Grandparent Program, are level funded for the year.

This is very good news. Now we must wait for the Senate to act.

We will keep you posted as we learn more.

20 Important Benefits of Music In Our Schools

Nearly everyone enjoys music, whether by listening to it, singing, or playing an instrument. But despite this almost universal interest, many schools are having to do away with their music education programs. This is a mistake, with schools losing not only an enjoyable subject, but a subject that can enrich students’ lives and education. Read on to learn why music education is so important, and how it offers benefits even beyond itself.

1. Musical training helps develop language and reasoning: Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.

2. A mastery of memorization: Even when performing with sheet music, student musicians are constantly using their memory to perform. The skill of memorization can serve students well in education and beyond.

3. Students learn to improve their work: Learning music promotes craftsmanship, and students learn to want to create good work instead of mediocre work. This desire can be applied to all subjects of study.

4. Increased coordination: Students who practice with musical instruments can improve their hand-eye coordination. Just like playing sports, children can develop motor skills when playing music.

5. A sense of achievement: Learning to play pieces of music on a new instrument can be a challenging, but achievable goal. Students who master even the smallest goal in music will be able to feel proud of their achievement.

6. Kids stay engaged in school: An enjoyable subject like music can keep kids interested and engaged in school. Student musicians are likely to stay in school to achieve in other subjects.

7. Success in society: Music is the fabric of our society, and music can shape abilities and character. Students in band or orchestra are less likely to abuse substances over their lifetime. Musical education can greatly contribute to children’s intellectual development as well.

8. Emotional development: Students of music can be more emotionally developed, with anxiety. They also tend to have higher self-esteem and are better at coping with anxiety.

9. Students learn pattern recognition: Children can develop their math and pattern recognition skills with the help of musical education. Playing music offers repetition in a fun format.

10. Better SAT scores: Students who have experience with music performance or appreciation score higher on the SAT. One report indicates 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math for students in music appreciation courses.

11. Fine-tuned auditory skills: Musicians can better detect meaningful, information-bearing elements in sounds, like the emotional meaning in a baby’s cry. Students who practice music can have better auditory attention, and pick out predictable patterns from surrounding noise.

12. Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity: Introducing music in the early childhood years can help foster a positive attitude toward learning and curiosity. Artistic education develops the whole brain and develops a child’s imagination.

13. Music can be relaxing: Students can fight stress by learning to play music. Soothing music is especially helpful in helping kids relax.

14. Musical instruments can teach discipline: Kids who learn to play an instrument can learn a valuable lesson in discipline. They will have to set time aside to practice and rise to the challenge of learning with discipline to master playing their instrument.

15. Preparation for the creative economy: Investing in creative education can prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The new economy has created more artistic careers, and these jobs may grow faster than others in the future.

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16. Development in creative thinking: Kids who study the arts can learn to think creatively. This kind of education can help them solve problems by thinking outside the box and realizing that there may be more than one right answer.

17. Music can develop spatial intelligence: Students who study music can improve the development of spatial intelligence, which allows them to perceive the world accurately and form mental pictures. Spatial intelligence is helpful for advanced mathematics and more.

18. Kids can learn teamwork: Many musical education programs require teamwork as part of a band or orchestra. In these groups, students will learn how to work together and build camaraderie.

19. Responsible risk-taking: Performing a musical piece can bring fear and anxiety. Doing so teaches kids how to take risks and deal with fear, which will help them become successful and reach their potential.

20. Better self-confidence: With encouragement from teachers and parents, students playing a musical instrument can build pride and confidence. Musical education is also likely to develop better communication for students.

**COMMITMENT TO SERVICE - SERVICE IS THE GOLD STANDARD**

Thank you for the service that you do each day. Schools and childcare centers face very limited budgets and their resources are stretched thin. At the same time, many children need more support in order to reach their learning milestones. Your patience, support, and encouragement make a difference in the ability of children to achieve. Thank you for your commitment.

Foster Grandparents are required to serve between 15 and 40 hours per week. Every hour you spend in service at your site allows you to have a positive impact on the children with whom you work. We encourage you to serve as many hours as you and your site choose.

**October Workshops**

**SEACOAST**
Wednesday, October 11th at 10am
First Parish Church in Somersworth
Topic: Homelessness
Speaker: Sally Struble, Executive Director
The Homeless Center for Strafford County

**CONCORD**
Wednesday, October 16th at 10am
Friend’s Conference Room
Speaker: Pam Staffacker, Concord Library
Promoting Children’s Reading

**LAKES REGION**
Tuesday, October 24th at 10am
Sacred Heart Parish
Topic: Senior Nutrition/Hydration and Sugar Intake
Speaker: Brenda Carey
UNH Cooperative Extension

**HAMPSTEAD/DEERRY**
Friday, October 27th at 1pm
Hamptead Public Library
Topic: Promoting Children’s Reading
Speaker: Devin VanCuren
Youth Services/Hampton Library

**MANCHESTER**
Wednesday, October 25th at 9:30 am
Derryfield Village
628 Hanover St., Manchester, NH
Topic: Eat Smart Live Strong
Speaker: Heidi Bennett
UNH Cooperative Extension

**NASHUA**
Tuesday, October 3rd at 10:00 am
St. Philip’s Greek Orthodox Church
500 W. Hollis St., Nashua
Topic: Growth Mindset
Speaker: Sarah Muncey,
Assistant Principal, Hills Garrison Elementary

**INCREASE IN MEAL REIMBURSEMENT**

In April we began reimbursing volunteers who were required to bring their meals from home during service. As we discussed at the spring workshops, we set the reimbursement at $2.00 and committed to evaluating our new policies over the summer.

At this time, the meal reimbursement rate has increased to $4.00. Effective immediately, those choosing to bring their own meal will be eligible for the $4.00 reimbursement.

Please use the new time sheet (enclosed), which reflects this increase.