

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH 2016

Concert or Presentation Speech

**To individualize your speech, replace your information in the bracketed red text, then delete this text.*

[Greeting]! Welcome to [event].

March is Music In Our Schools Month, a month long celebration presented by the National Association for Music Education to celebrate music education in our public schools across America. There is no better time than now to celebrate the vibrant music program that we have right within our own school district. We are extremely fortunate to have the support of the district's administration and school board, along with the many parents who all go above and beyond to assist our music students and faculty. Music in our schools is truly a community achievement.

Music In Our Schools Month - often represented by the initials MIOSM - began as a single day celebration in 1973 by the New York Music Educators Association, later becoming a month-long celebration in 1985. Concerts, presentations and gatherings of all kinds are celebrated all month long across our country to highlight the work, dedication and success of music students and programs in our nation's public schools.

Participation in arts and music education is extremely beneficial to our nation's youth. We know the educational benefits about music; we have heard them time and time again. Students who study music are...

- four times more likely to achieve academically
- three times more likely to be elected to student government
- four times more likely to participate in a math or science fair
- three times more likely to be awarded for perfect attendance

(Source: National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, 2002)

Students who studied at least four years of music or arts classes...

- have a higher GPA
- score an average of 102 points higher on the SAT
- are three times more likely to earn a bachelor's degree

(Source: Americans for the Arts, 2010)

It would be easy to continue, yet our focus on statistics should not distract from the *true* impact of music and its aesthetic appeal. Music needs to be celebrated and supported on its own merit and worth - for the creativity, artistry, emotion and power that only music holds!

To truly prove the large and powerful role music plays in our lives, let's consider the following:

- imagine your car without a radio - what do you hear?
- imagine a sporting event without the national anthem - what do you hear?
- imagine a church service or mass without sung hymns - what do you hear?
- imagine a television commercial (or social media ad) without background music - what do you hear?

It does not take long to realize that music is present in practically every dimension of our lives. By allowing our youth to be exposed to music, study the arts in our schools and to participate in various performance ensembles, we are ensuring music will be alive in the future and will survive in our world. No matter what 'sounds' may exist, our world should *never* be silent...the responsibility of promoting and defending music *always* lies with each one of us!

This year's Music In Our Schools Month slogan is "Music Inspires." How has music inspired you? Share your thoughts on our social media channels [[list social networks, if applicable](#)] using the hashtag #MIOSM2016 [[or another hashtag that is specific to your school/program](#)].

Thank you for your support of music in our schools!



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