



1442 Cut the Music?

John and Sarah talk about why art and music classes help students and why schools should not cut them.

John: So Sarah, _____, my school had the usual classes and we could take band class orchestra class, choir class, and art class if we _____.

Sarah: Uh-hmm.

John: But nowadays, school are **cutting** art programs and music programs.



Sarah: Yeah. I think it's too bad. I think _____ important for students to take these art classes or music classes. I think it's important for adults to be **well-rounded**. Even though math and science are so important, I think it's also important that we know a little bit about poetry and art and music and things like that.

John: Yeah. So in these schools where art programs and music programs _____, maybe sometimes they still have clubs so students can join the music club after school. But I think it's not enough. Students should have the **option** of taking band class during school. Maybe they can't stay after school _____.

Sarah: Yeah, that's right. You say they should have the option. But I think students should be required to take a few _____.

John: Oh, that's a good idea.

Sarah: Uh-hmm.

John: Do you think that students should be **required** to try all of those classes?

Sarah: Maybe. I think so, but of course, maybe they don't have time to take a full year of art class. But I think they can take a class where they can _____ and things like that.

John: And poetry _____.

Sarah: Yes, all together.

John: Oh, that's a good idea.

Sarah: I think maybe it's related. Even in elementary school these days in America, they're making **recess time** so short. They say, "We don't have time for recess, for art class, for music. We have to focus on math and science and reading." But I think students won't listen and learn as well if they don't have time to play or sing or dance.

Word Puzzle

Complete the text with the words below:

- are being cut
- wanted to take it
- when I was a kid
- that it's really
- and theatre
- and join a club
- classes like that
- study art and music



Quiz

1) Schools are spending _____ on programs.

- a) less
- b) more
- c) no money

2) Music makes students _____.

- a) well-rounded
- b) superficial
- c) amusing

3) She thinks students should _____ take music.

- a) have the option
- b) not have to
- c) have to

4) They want students to have more _____.

- a) sports teams
- b) recess time
- c) study hours

5) Singing can help students _____.

- a) listen more
- b) make friends
- c) finish homework

Vocabulary

cut

School are **cutting** art programs and music programs.

When you cut a program, you reduce it in size or remove it to save money. Notice the following:



1. They plan to cut the sports program.
2. The school needs to cut the music program.

well-rounded

I think it's important for adults to be **well-rounded**.

Here, when a person is well-rounded, they have a good background in many subjects. Notice the following:



1. She received a well-rounded education.
2. He is very well-rounded.

option

Students should have the **option** of taking band class during school.

When you have the option to do something, you have a choice to do it. Notice the following:



1. We do not have many options.
2. You have the option of leaving early if you like.

John: Yeah, some schools, it's getting very bad. In fact, I heard about a school where the kids don't have gym class. They don't have P.E., and instead of P.E. class, they took the after lunch recess and they said, "Before kids can play by themselves, they must **run three laps** on the track."

Sarah: Oh.

John: So they took away the gym class and they take away the free time.

Sarah: Boy, I don't want to go that school.

John: Yeah.

[End of Transcript]

Speaking Challenge

Answer these questions related to the lesson.

Q1 Should we spend money on music programs?

A1

Q2 Should students be required to study music?

A2

Q3 Should all schools have a marching band?

A3

Q4 As a child, what games did you play at recess?

A4

Q5 Did your school have good food options?

A5

required

Students should be **required** to try all those classes.



When you are required to do something you must do it. Notice the following:

1. We are required to pay our taxes.
2. At work, I am required to wear a uniform.

recess

They're making **recess time** so short.

A recess time is a break time for students between classes in school. Notice the following:



1. The students get a ten minute recess.
2. We played soccer at recess.

lap

They must **run three laps** on the track.

A lap is one circuit or rotation in a pool or on a track. Notice the following:



1. How many laps can you swim?
2. We ran a lap around the track.

Vocabulary Quiz

cut • well-rounded • options
required • recess • lap

1. College students are usually .
2. This course is for my degree.
3. He swam a in the pool.
4. The kids love to play at .
5. They might the music program.
6. We do not have many .

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1441 Music Appreciation

John and Sarah talk about the musical instruments they can play and if you can learn music at any age.

John: So Sarah, do you play **any** musical *instruments*?

Sarah: Yeah. I play two. I love **to** play the guitar. I started playing in college, and I like to play **the** piano, too. I started learning the piano when I **was** really young. How about you?



John: Oh that's interesting. For me, I started playing **the** trumpet when I was really young, and I don't play **it** much anymore. But I started playing **the** piano when I finished high school, **and** I still play **it** now.

Sarah: Oh wow. So **you** started learning **the** piano when **you** were older.

John: Yes.

Sarah: Do **you** think people **can** start **to** learn **an** instrument at **any** age?

John: Yes, I think **so**. Do you have a theory about that?

Sarah: Yeah. I think that **if** people start **to** play **an** instrument when they're older, I think they enjoy it more because they chose **to** learn it. And I think they're going **to** play it longer. But **if** you have to learn **an** instrument when you're younger, I think you won't continue playing **it**.

John: Oh, because you have **to** practice **for** homework **or** something like that.

Sarah: Yeah. I have five brothers. And we all learned how to play the piano, but as soon as my brothers graduated from high school and **went away**, they stopped playing the piano. And they don't play it now. In fact, they forgot everything.

John: Oh, wow.

Sarah: Yeah.

John: Well, I do think that music education is very important for children because reading **sheet music** is like reading a language. And children can learn it much easier than adults learn. So no matter what instrument you play, if you're a child you learn how to read music.

Blanks!
Complete the gaps.

Example
I have ___ leave soon.

Write
I have to leave soon.



Quiz

1) Sarah plays ____ instruments. ✓

- a) two
- b) three
- c) no

2) Sarah says if you learn music later you will ____ . ✓

- a) not enjoy it
- b) enjoy it more
- c) not learn much

3) John learned the piano ____ . ✓

- a) in college
- b) like his brothers
- c) online

4) He says children need to learn to ____ . ✓

- a) sing in tune
- b) write music
- c) read music

5) He does he not mention being in? ✓

- a) marching band
- b) choir
- c) rock band

Vocabulary

instruments

Do you play any musical *instruments*?

An instrument is a device used to play music, such as a guitar, violin, or flute. Notice the following:



1. He can play three instruments.
2. The high school band wants to buy new instruments for the students.

went away

My brothers graduated from high school and **went away**.



When someone goes away, it can mean they have moved away from an area. Notice the following:

1. I went away after college.
2. She went away and never came back.

sheet music

Reading **sheet music** is like reading a language.



Sheet music is printed music that musicians read as a guide as they play. Notice the following:

1. I cannot read sheet music.

Sarah: And I think too, it's really important for kids to be a part of a group like that. For example, singing in the **choir** or playing music in the **orchestra**, I think it's really good for kids to learn to work together and make music as a team. I have some really good memories about being a young kid in the orchestra.

John: Me too. I was also in choir and orchestra and **marching band**. So I don't play the orchestra instruments anymore and I don't play the marching band instruments anymore but I'm very glad that I had the experience of learning to read music and learning to work together as a team.

Sarah: That's true. Me too. Okay. I changed my mind. Even little kids, they should learn how to play a musical instrument.

[End of Transcript]

Speaking Challenge

Answer these questions related to the lesson.

Q1 Do you play any musical instruments?

A1

Q2 What instrument would you like to learn to play?

A2

Q3 Have you ever seen a marching band?

A3

Q4 Have you ever sung in a choir?

A4

Q5 Would you like to be in a rock band?

A5

2. An orchestra must use sheet music.

choir

For example, singing in the **choir** or playing music.

A choir is an organized group of singers. Notice the following:

1. I am in my church choir.
2. We listened to the choir sing.



orchestra

Playing music in the **orchestra**.

An orchestra is a group of musicians that play different instruments. Notice the following:

1. We listened to the orchestra.
2. The orchestra has many good musicians.



marching band

I was also in choir and orchestra and **marching band**.

A marching band consists of a group of musicians that march, or walk in step, as they play music. Notice the following:

1. I was in a marching band in high school.
2. The marching band played in the parade.



Vocabulary Quiz

instruments • went away • sheet music
choir • orchestra • marching

1. Are you in the band?
2. I hear that they for good.
3. Do you play any ?
4. She plays violin in the school .
5. Can you read ?
6. I used to sing in my school .

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