

The Future of Music Programs

I spend my afternoons at choir practice and competitions where my son performs. He sings beautifully though he would like more opportunities for solos. He is so pleased to have music in his life, and he is talented enough to make it his living when he comes of age. With practice he will be widely successful in his choice of career.

Our local school board is considering the idea of eliminating the music programs in the elementary schools in our district in order to save money. The music programs in the middle school and the high school require students to have prior experience with musical instruments or experience in a choir. Normally, students would obtain this experience by participating in the programs in elementary school. If our school board cuts these elementary school music programs, parents are going to have to pay for their children's music education out of their own pockets. We are already paying property taxes to fund our children's education, so why must we pay additional money to have them educated in music as well?

The school board wants to eliminate these programs. I am aware the city and county are both broke, and that all municipal programs are suffering from the hard economic times, but this can easily be rectified by a freeze on salaries for school board members and district administrators. Why should we allow them to take annual raises when the money comes from our children's future?