

The Compass



Young children who received a year of musical training showed brain changes and superior memory compared with children who did not receive the instruction. *Journal of Neurology*, Sept. 2006

The vast majority—96%—of the school principals interviewed in a recent study agree that participation in music education encourages and motivates students to stay in school. Further, 89% of principals feel that a high-quality music-education program contributes to their school achieving higher graduation rates. *Harris Interactive Poll 2006*

Crowd Control: Classroom Management and Effective Teaching for Chorus, Band, and Orchestra Now Available From MENC: The National Association for Music Education and Rowman & Littlefield Education

RESTON, VA (February 25, 2008) — *Crowd Control: Classroom Management and Effective Teaching for Chorus, Band, and Orchestra*, a new publication by Susan L. Haugland and published by MENC: The National Association for Music Education and Rowman & Littlefield Education, is a nuts-and-bolts manual for teachers of middle and high school performance-based classes such as band, orchestra, and chorus. This practical how-to guide shows teachers—pre-service or experienced—efficient ways to manage large performance-based classrooms. With wit and sage, tried-and-true advice, Haugland provides a complete behavior plan as well as concrete ideas for addressing the National Standards, assessment, advocacy, and ensemble teambuilding. Accessible and indispensable, *Crowd Control* will become a vital resource in every music teacher's library.

"Haugland's experience and knowledge of best practice is evident in *Crowd Control*. She addresses issues specific to the unique nature of music teaching in a proactive way, setting both teachers and students up for success. Especially helpful for pre-service or new teachers, Haugland's approach to managing a music program is both accessible and practical," said Dr. Mary Lynn Doherty, assistant professor of music education, Northern Illinois University. *Crowd Control* was also reviewed favorably on Amazon.com: "Memorize this book before you interview for a single teaching job." Susan L. Haugland has been a music educator since 1982, with experience teaching band, chorus, orchestra, general music, and music theory at all grade levels from preschool through college. She resides in Lake Bluff, Illinois where she currently teaches general music and orchestra at the elementary level. *Crowd Control: Classroom Management and Effective Teaching for Chorus, Band, and Orchestra* is available from RLE in paperback for \$16.95 and clothbound for \$50.00. MENC members receive a discount of 25%. To order or for more information, call 800-462-6420 or visit www.rowmaneducation.com.

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And one more thing...

Studies link arts, sciences abilities.

Education Week (3/12, Viadero) reports, "Findings released this week from three years of studies by neuroscientists and psychologists at seven universities help amplify scientists' understanding of how training in the arts might contribute to improving the general thinking skills of children and adults." Among the findings was "preliminary evidence suggesting a link between visual-arts lessons outside of school and children's skill at math calculations," as well as "a link between music training and skill at manipulating information in both long-term and working memory; between music learning and speaking fluency in second-language learning; and dance and the ability to learn by observing movement." According to one scholar involved, the research "suggests a...closer connection between the cognitive processes that give rise to the arts and the cognitive processes that give rise to the sciences" than many people had previously thought. "Left unsettled, experts say, is whether the arts make people smarter or whether smart people simply gravitate to the arts."

Bill Would Allow Home Schoolers Access to School Athletics

Legislation which would allow home-schooled students to participate in athletic activities of the public school where they are eligible to attend is pending in the General Assembly. SB 3424/HB3413 is sponsored by Sen. Tim Burchett (Knoxville) and Rep. Beth Harwell (Nashville). The bill was discussed in the Senate Education Committee on Feb. 27 but was placed on hold after questions were raised of the sponsor. No action has been taken in the House. Several education groups including TEA, Tenn. School Boards Assoc., and TSSAA oppose the bill. TEA's position remains that home-schooling is a choice and that students should not be able to "pick and choose" which aspects of school in which they would like to participate.

And even worse...

Bill Would Criminalize Educators for Student Conduct Reports

TEA strongly opposes this added liability for teachers and principals. Legislation is pending which would allow school employees to be charged with a criminal act when they fail to report certain student behavior. HB 2642, sponsored by Rep. Hard away (Memphis) would make it a misdemeanor for a teacher to fail to report to the principal "that a student has engaged in or is engaging in conduct on school property that constitutes a criminal offense classified as a felony or misdemeanor involving bodily injury, violence or the threat of violence to another. . . . It also would make it a criminal offense for the principal to fail to report certain actions to the police. Go to tea.teacher.com and click on Weekly Legislative Report to read the text of this bill.