

## **Hello 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Families,**

Below is the third installment of the Hinsdale South band's 8th grade FAQ enrollment emails. We hope these will be helpful as you complete the registration process. Many families are curious about the impact band will have on their student's college admission process. This email addresses that interest.

**Today's Topic:** How music study benefits post-high school plans.

### ***Can my student attend the college of their choice, even if they choose to study music for all four years of high school?***

- All graduates of Hinsdale South bands have been able to attend a college or university of their choice.
- Hinsdale South band alumni are currently attending many different universities and colleges across the country, including, but not limited to, West Point United States Military Academy, Howard University, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, Northern Illinois University, College of DuPage, and Yale.
- Music students from Hinsdale South bands have gone on to study a wide variety of majors. The most popular was engineering.
- Students graduating from the music department have accepted scholarship money for a variety of disciplines and subjects, not just music.
- Several of them are still performing music in college.

### ***Do colleges value an arts education, even if my student is not going on to study music as a career?***

- If you have concerns in this area, please take a moment to watch this video of a talk with an admissions dean from Northwestern University describing the impact of having studied arts on admissions: <https://youtu.be/rjbzO1CUumw>
- The University of Iowa School of Engineering calls engineers "creative problem solvers," and their admissions brochure encourages students to widen their interests by studying art, joining the marching band, or mastering a foreign language.

- Northwestern University Admissions states that they will select someone who's transcript includes arts over a candidate that has taken only core academic classes.
- Richard Shaw, Dean of Admissions at Stanford, is quoted as saying that Stanford "...recommends the arts because of their humanizing influences, their demands for self-discipline...and their capacities to stimulate that most important of all intellectual abilities: creativity."
- In any given year, the 350+ member Marching Illini is likely to have more engineering majors than music majors.
- Liberal arts colleges such as Purdue & University of North Carolina do not have a school of music, but have multiple levels of concert bands, jazz bands, orchestras, etc.
- We are just as excited about students who decide to Attend Trade Schools, Community colleges and schools who are less highly selective. Unfortunately there is less data and research for these options.

***Beyond its aesthetic benefits, what skills can music give my child that will help them succeed?***

- Music is one of the most effective ways to hone 21st century skills such as communication, creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. Brain research reveals that making music engages almost 90% of brain capacity. There is no comparable activity that a child can engage in that activates nearly the entire cerebral cortex. Rehearsing and performing music gives students a competitive edge.
- "In art classes, students are given problems to solve and criteria within which to create possible solutions. They are forced to take chances, make decisions, and deal with ambiguity. This art-making model of problem solution is much more like real-world performance than most of what goes on in schooling. In addition, it allows room for many diverse, successful solutions to the same problem." *—Jessica Hoffman Davis, author of "Why our Schools Need the Arts"*

Thank you for taking the time to read our information. You can access more information about bands at Hinsdale South on our website:

<https://www.hinsdalesouthband.com/class-of-2026.html>

We're looking forward to sharing a fantastic four years of music with your family!