



***Having a student in the Sycamore Music Program
makes your family an important part of the Booster Club!***

www.sycamoremusicboosters.com



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President's Corner

A couple days ago, the Daily Chronicle published the results of a survey on the key assets of DeKalb County youth. The statistic that caught my attention from this article was that only 20% of the DeKalb County youth who were surveyed participate in 3 hours or more of music related instruction and practice per week. Having seen the benefits of participation in music education programs for my two children, I feel strongly that every child should have the opportunity to fully participate in music education programs in order to reap the vast benefits. There is research to support that music education facilitates brain development and the younger that children can start, the greater the benefits. There is also evidence that middle and high school children who participate in music have higher test scores and tend to have greater academic achievement than children who do not participate.

Despite this evidence, I feel that the greatest benefit of participation in music programs may be the social benefits. I have seen the benefits with my children who are now both sophomores, one at Sycamore High School and the other at the University of Iowa. Participation in band has helped both my children make smooth transitions from one level of school to the next including elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to college. They have an instant peer group, and are provided a place to grow, learn, and express themselves as individuals in a welcoming and supportive environment. And, they have exposure to wonderful mentors from other grade levels that can assist in their goal setting and overall positive outlook on life. Most importantly, they develop lifelong friendships with wonderful people through their participation in music.

I strongly encourage all parents to encourage your children to stick it out and not quit band, choir, or orchestra. All students want to quit at one time or another, and all students will resist practicing their instrument at home. These are battles worth fighting and one day your children will thank you for not letting them quit.

Our children will follow our lead. If they see their parents investing time and resources into supporting their music education, they are more likely to make a stronger commitment themselves to the programs. Please consider getting involved in Sycamore Music Boosters as one way to show that commitment. We could use your help. I hope to see you on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at the Sycamore High School library.

Sincerely,

Ken Olson
Sycamore Music Boosters President

If you have received this email in error, our apologies. Please respond to JoeandGlenna@aol.com to have your name removed .

SMB Scholarships Applications

Scholarship applications are now being accepted for Summer Music Camp support, Senior Music Scholarships, and Continuing College Music Scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to help the growth of the individual music student as well to build the Sycamore Music Program.

Any Sycamore School student in grades 6-11 enrolled in the band, orchestra, or choir music program is eligible to apply for a scholarship for Summer Camps including residential camps and day camps. Any Sycamore High School graduating senior intending to major in music in college may apply for the Senior Music Scholarship with three being given, one in each of the following areas; choir, band, and orchestra. The Continuing College Music Scholarship is available to one or several Sycamore High School graduates that are currently an undergraduate college junior or senior majoring in music.

Deadlines for various scholarships are as follows: Summer Music Camp Scholarship applications must be submitted to the student's music teacher by **April 4, 2014**. Senior Music Scholarship applications must be submitted by **May 2, 2014** and Continuing College Music Scholarship applications must be submitted by **July 15, 2014** to Scholarship Chairperson Lisa Smith.

All scholarship information and applications are now available at www.sycamoremusicboosters.com. You may also contact the Scholarship Chairperson, Lisa Smith, via e-mail at lisasmith1615@comcast.net.

Next Music Boosters Meeting:

Thursday, March 20
HS Library
6:00pm.

Come see all of the great things the Music Boosters are doing for your music students within the district! Bring a friend and be a part of these importance decisions.

The meeting will finish in time for the HS Band Concert which begins at 7:30 pm.

Please join us!!!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that attended, volunteered, and donated to our annual A Note To Remember fundraiser! It was a huge success and we had the most prosperous year to date! We express our deep gratitude to our sponsors, businesses and families that donated items and their time at this event. Thank you to our wonderful music department staff and our musicians that provided lovely music for the evening. And most of all, thank YOU, for your support of this event! We couldn't have done it without you!

Congratulations to the 2014 Sycamore High School Music Hall of Fame Inductees:



Lori McMillion Grant

Pete Benson

Kara Eubanks

Upcoming Events

<u>BAND</u>	<u>ORCHESTRA</u>	<u>CHOIR</u>
NI Big 12 Band Festival March 18 DeKalb HS Auditorium	HS Orchestra Concert March 17, 7:30 pm SHS Auditorium	HS Choir Concert March 18, 7:30 pm SHS Auditorium
HS Band Concert March 20, 7:30 pm SHS Auditorium	HS Orchestra Concert May 13, 7:30 pm SHS Auditorium	Elementary Spring Sings 7:00 pm—SHS Auditorium
7th/8th Grade Band Concert April 28, 7:30 pm SHS Auditorium	Elem./MS Orchestra Concert May 15, 7:00 pm SHS Auditorium	North Grove April 14 South Prairie April 15 North April 21 Southeast April 22 West April 24
HS Band Concert May 8, 7:30 pm SHS Auditorium		
Jazz Night May 12, 7:30 pm SHS Auditorium	IHSA Organizational Festival for Band & Orchestra April 11 or 12—TBA	