

# Why is Band Important?

## Music is a Science

It is exact, specific, and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

## Music is Mathematical

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

## Music is a Foreign Language

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English - but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music are the most complete and universal language.

## Music is Physical Education

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

## Music Develops Insight and Demands Research

Music is all these things, but most of all, Music is Art. It allows a human being to take all these dry technically boring, (but difficult) techniques and uses them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

That is why we teach music:  
not because we expect you to major in music,  
not because we expect you to play or sing all your life,  
BUT  
so you will be human,  
so you will recognize beauty,  
so you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world,  
so you will have something to cling to,  
so you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness,  
more good,  
in short, more life.

