

## Why Music?

Music education shapes the way our students understand themselves and the world around them. It allows for deep engagement with learning. It nurtures assets and skills that are critical to future success, including creativity, curiosity, determination, and motivation. In other words, music helps develop the student beyond the score.

♪ **Emotional Awareness** – Students learn to *express* themselves in multiple ways and become more sensitive to the preferences and feelings of others.

♪ **Reflective Learning** – Students *reflect* on failures and successes through the creative process and derive a sense of their own competencies, interests, and challenges.

♪ **Process Orientation** – Students develop the ability to consistently *define their thinking* as part of the creative process, developing an ability to reevaluate goals and objectives and, if needed, adjust their approach to the objective.

♪ **Decision-making** – Through both the creative and reflective learning process, students gain a greater capacity to *question, interpret, and influence* their own lives.

♪ **Grit** – In a high-level performance environment, *hard work* and *practice* predict success far more than innate ability. Music performance offers opportunities to fail. Students learn the value of persistence and of working hard for an uncertain outcome.

♪ **Multiple Ways of Knowing** – Music study promotes fluency in knowledge systems beyond the linguistic and mathematical, enabling a deeper and broader *understanding of our world* and the *human experience*.\*

\*from the National Association for Music Education (NAFME) website:  
<http://www.nafme.org>