

WAME Newsletter

*The **Wisconsin Advocates for Music Education** will email timely and important music education information on a monthly basis to keep you informed and involved. If you have ideas to contribute, please email Rich Mannisto, WAME Chair: rmannisto@aol.com.*

Rediscovering A Familiar Road: Performance With Understanding Helps Music Advocacy

Today's bands, orchestras and choirs are experiencing a crunch for time, money and many other critical resources. Fortunately, many music programs across Wisconsin have been very successful despite the adversity and continue to offer quality music education.

Creating educational success in a music program is more than just the result of supportive administration and community. When a music educator guides their students to understand the music and performance, the more synthesis and application of musical skills becomes apparent, which fosters a stronger music program.

Many music educators use a process called "Comprehensive Musicianship Through Performance" as a model for having students learn more than "just the notes." While excellent music performances are wonderful, today's student can experience music on a more personal level. Students can be encouraged to find out more about the music, learn about the composer, and find personal connections with their music.

When music programs help individuals look outside the traditional box of notes and rhythms, they help to develop the "whole child." Music programs that exhibit varied curriculum and instruction tend to be viewed less as entertainment and more as educational, which many times can help prevent budget cuts.

Whether you're an educator, parent, community member or supporter, offer encouragement for your school music programs to remain strong and look for ways to help strengthen students' understanding of the music. Everybody wins when kids learn more about music through opportunities in their school.

*Submitted by Jake Morris, WAME CMENC Representative
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