

Piano & Math

Playing piano enhances math ability!

Music Students Are Scoring

Music students are outperforming non-music students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). College-bound seniors with coursework or experience in music performance scored 52 points higher on the verbal portion and 37 points higher on the math portion of the SAT than students with no coursework or experience in the arts.

-- The College Board, 1997

Music Is Beating Computers at Enhancing Early Childhood Development

Music training, specifically piano instruction, is far superior to computer instruction in dramatically enhancing children's abstract reasoning skills necessary for learning math and science. Learning music at an early age causes long-term enhancement of spatial-temporal reasoning.

-- Frances Rauscher, Ph.D., Gordon Shaw, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, 1997

Piano and Computer Training Boost Student Math Achievement

Children given four months of piano keyboard training, as well as time playing with newly designed [math] computer software, scored 27 percent higher on proportional math and fractions tests than other children....Piano instruction is thought to enhance the brain's 'hard-wiring' for spatial-temporal reasoning, or the ability to visualize and transform objects in space and time. Music involves ratios, fractions, proportions and thinking in space and time.

-- Gordon Shaw, Ph.D., University of California, Irvine, 1999

Music-Math Correlation

The correlation between musical teaching and mathematical achievement may be associated with the improved performance of short-term memory and an increase in the abstract representation of numerical quantities.

-- Schmithorst and Holland, 2004

