

## Budget Testimony-

Name: Jennifer (Ginger) Segala

Address: 5013 Stone Hill Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043

District:1

In favor of full funding for HCPSS

My name is Ginger Segala. I live in District 1. I have lived in Howard County for twenty seven years. My husband and I have been parents of students in the Howard County Public School System for 18 consecutive years with 10 more years to go.

One unique quality of being a stakeholder for so long in the system is that you have the opportunity to see the ebb and flow of different personnel, a cyclical variety in pedagogy and the results of support of prized programs. Over the years my children have been exposed to different ideas, uncovered exciting experiences and looked forward to something in school every day. When I sat down to write this testimony, I had such a hard time. 3 minutes is hardly enough time to vent the frustration I feel over hearing about some of the proposed programmatic budget cuts to our children's education. It was certainly hard to listen to the list of cuts and not feel anxiety about the future of our system. But, to be fair, parents have been staunchly calling for transparency in the budget process for years. We can't complain when we are forced to ride on the budget process roller coaster.

Depending on where you gather your information, these budget shortfalls are either the results of poor planning and underfunding for years and years, or part of a political campaign to make one elected official look bad or someone else look good. Some people say that unchecked development has caused the problem and others claim that development is the reason we have money to spend at all.

After reading all of the information....I actually think that everyone is a little "right" in their interpretations of how we got here. The solution to the problem of a currently underfunded school system with increasing debt will not be easy, and the decisions can't be made in one budget cycle. These are high level overall

county decisions to hammer out with the help and cooperation of the Superintendent and our elected Board of Education. One thing is for sure----You can't allow the status quo stellar education programming to be affected.

I am here today to remind everyone at the macro levels in the budget process that decisions you make at this level are not just numbers in a ledger. They represent children and the experiences and opportunities to which they will be exposed. In particular, I am here today because of the amazing and stellar music education our students receive in Howard County.

The music programs are about music for music's sake, but they are also about team building, and mental health. The programs provide lessons on discipline, and universal language. They provide opportunity for cultural sharing and community building. The students connect with the directors over years, with their peers across grade level and across a mixture of standard academic tracks. These programs are, quite frankly, the most universally engaging, appropriate, inclusive and openly welcoming programs in the entire school system.

How do I know that? Because the students told me.

Since the program cuts were announced last week, students across the county have been participating in an opportunity offered by the Howard County Parents for School Music called Music Notes. These are love notes written by students in the school music programs-- across all grades-- about why the programs have been important to them. The words on the cards are so heartfelt and they are unedited. They are varied in their reasons. Some students are just glad they get to play music and don't have to listen to another teacher talk at them for 50 minutes. Other students say that they met all of their friends in their music classes and connected to the school through them. Many of the students....as a parent.....more than I would like to see...wrote about how these classes provided

the mental health break that they needed just to make it through their daily stressful life.

Each of you have a gift bag which contains hundreds of Music Notes from the students in Howard County. I encourage you to take some time to read them before you make decisions on the overall budget. Think about each one of them individually. Think about their little fingers learning to pluck the strings of the violin in elementary school. Think about how proud those elementary students are when they play hot cross buns as a team for the first time at their concert. And also, think about how Howard County has thousands of community members attend music concerts and musicals in school every year. We can also boast that we will have an alumnus attending Juilliard next year. Howard County should be proud of the music programs that have been offered for decades in our county.

Instrumental music is an essential part of an evolved, accomplished, world class school system. I don't even really have to tell you that...because on those cards....our children do.

Thank you.

Dear Director of the board of education

The Howard County Music program is  
organized and disciplined. His music  
program has brought me discipline so  
well he put so many things out I  
think that 3rd grade string should  
stop so the up coming 3rd graders  
can stay sharp.

Dear Sir or Madam!

Before I moved to Howard  
County I went to a school that  
had no orchestra and the band  
start until 5th grade. I played  
trumpet all there were only  
kids in the band. At our current  
we played for cross country. When  
I moved here I watched the  
and they were playing for years. When  
in 3rd grade really inspired the music.

I started violin in third grade and it  
has totally changed my life. In orchestra, we  
not only learn how to play music, but we  
also learn how to work with other and cooperate.  
I have seen myself grow as a musician  
since third grade. But if we take it  
away, we won't improve as much.

- Burlington Manor Student



Srinidhi Gadigaram from Bursleigh Manor  
Music has helped me connect with another  
world and another community of people  
that have helped me so much. I started  
in 3rd grade, and I thought I was so  
bad, but the immense support I've gotten  
since then proved how much this community  
will care about each and every person. The  
music education is very important  
because its teacher kids find endless  
possibilities of having creativity as a young age.

Music means everything to me. It is part  
of my everyday life and has effected  
me in a very positive way. I did not  
always go to Howard County Public schools.  
In my old school students did not have  
the opportunity to play until 4th grade.  
When I first came here I was so excited to  
learn that students could get a taste of  
playing music so early on. It would mean  
the world to me if 2nd graders could still have  
that opportunity.

Dear Sir or Madam,

5/10/2019  
BMWS

I am a string player who goes to Bursleigh Manor Middle  
school. I have been playing the cello since 3rd grade. I have to  
say, music has become a big part of my life. If you take  
away specialized music instruction from these schools, other  
students will not get the opportunity I had to really learn  
my instrument. Please consider my opinion.

Sincerely,

Srinidhi Gadigaram

Music is very important to me because without us being able to have our own lessons or teachers to help I would probably be lost so thank

YOU



to Board of Ed, From Dorlogh Munnirmade  
School

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please don't remove 3rd grade strings and specialized instrumental teachers, they help student on specific instruments, I started strings in 3rd grade and found it very helpful for me to grow as a string player. Sorry for taking up your valuable time

Sincerely  
Annamay Bhar

Music is important to me for  
my day is boring until I play  
so keep it.

Music is important but not having it  
wouldn't really change anything.  
Most people would be happy to go.

A

I still have a possible cause  
it's a bit of a mess in my  
chapter in my life

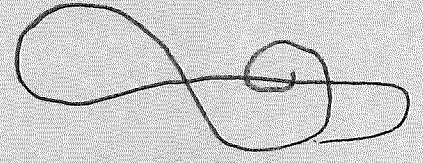


PVMS  
BASSOON

Build one Soprano



P.V.M.S



SAXOPHONE

PVM

Music could help  
Students get score more  
and help teachers get  
jobs

- Music is important because...
- It's fun and challenging
- It can help you make friends
- It could start a hobby or lifelong passion

- My favorite class
- I look forward to it everyday
- I love to play Music
- Music makes people happy
- by playing instrument I get to do new things and play cool pieces

Handwritten musical notation on a staff. The word "Music" is written in a large, cursive font across the staff. To the left of the staff, the word "Flute" is written vertically. To the right, the word "Piano" is written vertically. There are several musical symbols: a treble clef, a sharp sign (#), a heart symbol, and a question mark (?). There are also some small, illegible markings.

Handwritten musical notation on a staff. The word "Alto Saxophone" is written vertically on the left. The word "Piano" is written vertically on the right. There is a drawing of a person playing a saxophone. Below the drawing, there are several musical notes and symbols, including a treble clef and a sharp sign (#).

Handwritten musical notation on a staff. The word "Percussion" is written vertically on the left. There are several musical notes and symbols, including a treble clef and a sharp sign (#).



# MUSIC IS IMPORTANT

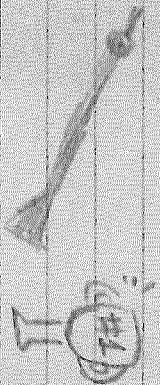
I can express my

- Be happy
- Have fun
- Want to go to school
- Learn / try new things
- Have something to do at home

MUSIC IS IMPORTANT  
FUN'D US!!!

Music is really important because it establishes identity and community skills. Working in a band is really fun, too!

I really love my instrument and I feel so grateful that I've been able to play it as long as I have!



Thank you!

# MUSIC IS IMPORTANT IN SCHOOL

because music can spark creativity in young minds, which is helpful for kids.

Percussion

Drums

Oboe

MUSIC IS IMPORTANT!

PVM

Trum pet

Pvms



I think music is important in school because it gives us a break from cluttering our brain with information. Plus, it's just really fun to do.

Because we get to learn how to play an instrument

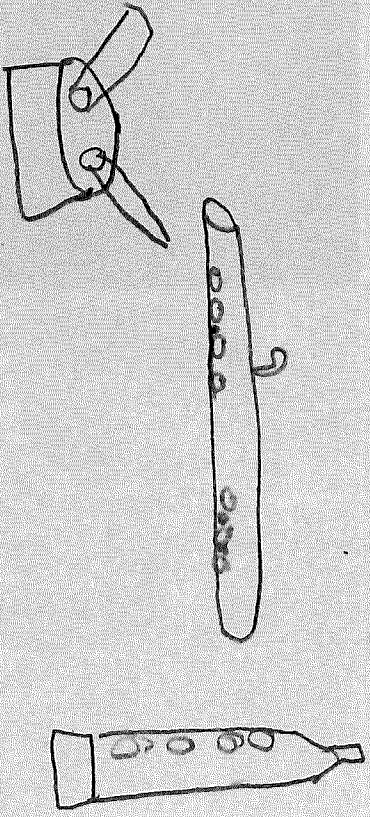
Dear County,

5/10/19

I think that you should not eliminate 3rd grade string because it educates me and taught me to be a better player. If it was eliminated it would not allow your players to advance and become a good player. If players are taught at a young age they will have more time to develop string skills. I hope that you

PPWS/  
EUPHONIUM

Flute Pumps



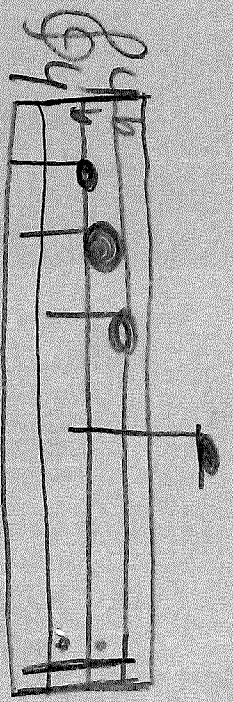
Recursion can't keep third grade swings.



It gives students a break from learning academic stuff and it's really fun. It's challenging but not as hard as school subjects.

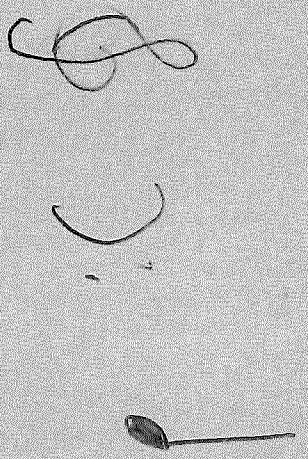
Music is important because it allows students to learn how to listen to a teacher. It can also help them with math because you have to count the measures and the notes.

Music is important to the students and the entire school. Music allows students to express themselves! Music also can allow students a career option and is important for our future. Music also brings people together. Not only with common interests, but music causes happiness. To take this away from us would make me feel terrible.



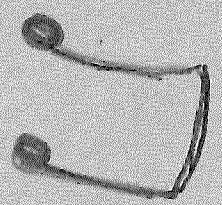
Flute

PVMS



Flute

PVMS



Flute

(pat. 2011) PVMS  
MIDIO



music is important in school  
bc there must always be  
a variety of things in school!

Dear BOE,

I know this may not be a lot, but I am a  
student from Burlington Manor that plays the viola. I  
started middle school, I started the viola in 1  
grade. However, none of my other friends were  
doing it at the time. When almost everyone started  
doing orchestra in 3rd grade, I was overjoyed  
because I could play an instrument with my  
fellow "peers". We could talk about which  
piece was the best in our free time and make  
a beautiful sound with one another. It really

- orchestra makes me complete.
- For once I feel like I belong somewhere.
- Orchestra and music makes me happy.
- It helps depression and anxiety.
- Orchestra helps and nurtures the  
feeling of special thoughts and  
makes me happy.
- I love the music.

Handwritten musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef, followed by a sharp sign (#) on the first line, and a series of notes and rests. The name "Purkma" is written in large, stylized letters across the bottom of the staff.

connected us and linked us together. It has influenced us greatly and here we are. In 6th grade orchestra. Redoing what we have done in 3rd grade. My point is, PLEASE do not remove 3rd grade orchestra. It might have shaped everyone today. If you take it away, my brother, in 7th grade will not get in orchestra and see what I felt before. Thank you for reading and (hopefully) consider this letter.

Handwritten musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef, followed by a sharp sign (#) on the first line, and a series of notes and rests. The name "Purkma" is written in large, stylized letters across the bottom of the staff.



Dear Board of Ed,

We have been informed in Burleigh Manor Middle of the potential cuts they may take place in the music department. Personally, I consider 3rd grade strings is SO important to the progression of the players. Learning in 3rd grade was so fun and a great learning experience because we got to start so young. I understand that cutting some teachers is very upsetting,

Dear Sir or Madam,

Burleigh Manor Middle

Music really means a lot to me. Starting strings in 3rd grade is amazing because it lets me experience this from an early age. The teaching of strings has also been awesome. The teachers are great and I never want to get anything less than what I have from them. Thank you.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Everyday I listen to music to help me think, relax & get energized. Exposing kids early on to the wonders of music lets them find an outlet and explore a world where they can feel comfortable. Learning how to read music and play an instrument is like learning another language. I urge you to

but one teacher being cut\* can help many children, (which the schools are for) gain an understanding of an early age. Please consider these details, and think of the children.

- Arianna M.

\* Per school

Samuel Subhakar  
Grade 8

to think about the many  
negatives that go with the  
musical budget cuts proposal.

From,  
A concerned  
Student



- Music is a way to express yourself and music creates family for kids and safe environment where EVERYONE fits in!!!

- Also music when I was in elementary school is what helped me to realize this is what I want to do the rest of my life. I want to be a choral music education teacher and kids find joy in music.

- For the teachers this is their PASSION!!!

Music education is important to me and to all the kids in the country. Music is a way for everyone to express themselves and to learn how to feel D.I.T.A

Everyone of music that I have to make for me music is a way to show myself at heart I feel I can buy instruments and all of the books for my ASL and sign language and I tell you can help me find every thing about

music education is important because kids in elementary schools may want to pursue music later. They won't be able to start early if you cut 3rd grade music. I think it's extremely disrespectful to cut something that helps people get through stuff. Music is so important - cut down \$ on laptops and macs instead of music. I've been taking music since kindergarten. Don't make kids dream's go to waste

mf

Choir's helps feel like a day when I have a lot of my mind. I loved it especially when I was in elementary school. The thought of some kind denied the opportunity to learn and enjoy music is unthinkable. Maybe you should give less funding to sports or some activity that isn't as big. Teachers getting fired are so unnecessary and it's very depressing.

Music gives kids an outlet to do something creative. It helps inspire them and gives them something they can do in the time.

Music is a huge part of my life and can be the beginning of many futures for others. Getting rid of music is like getting rid of any other class, like math or science.

MUSIC EDUCATION IS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC. IT AFFECTS ME IN  
SEVERAL WAYS. FIRST, I AM NOT TOLERATED IN PHYSICAL  
EDUCATION. MUSIC HAS HELPED ME TO GROW AS A PERSON.  
I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN MUSIC SINCE THE THIRD GRADE, AND  
EACH YEAR IT GETS BETTER AND BETTER. CUTTING THE MUSIC  
PROGRAM WOULD BEGET BUDGET WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.  
PEOPLE PICK TO TAKE MUSIC CLASSES TO GET THEIR  
CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING. PEOPLE WOULD RATHER TAKE  
A MUSIC CLASS ANY DAY. PLEASE KEEP THE MUSIC PROGRAM  
STRONG. OUR CHORUS BAND AND ORCHESTRA START EARLY,  
IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. BY CUTTING ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS,  
YOUR DAMAGING MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

Early music education gives students a foundation  
to go off of if they want to study music in the future.  
Music allows people of all ages to express themselves  
and can be more creative people. If these teachers  
are cut, more pressure will be placed on the  
remaining teachers.

MUSIC EDUCATION IS A VALUABLE  
OUTLET IN A DAY THAT IS OTHER-  
WISE COMPLETELY FULL. A MAJOR  
REGRET OF MINE IS THAT I ONLY  
STARTED TAKING MUSIC CLASSES AGAIN THIS YEAR  
AS A JUNIOR. I SIT W/ ENVY AS I HEAR  
ANECDOTES OF THEIR EXPERIENCE  
EARLIER ON.

ADDITIONALLY, THOSE REMAINING TEACHERS  
WILL BE SPREAD THIN, LESSENING THE  
PRESTIGE OF HO CO MUSIC FURTHER IN INITIATING  
A VICIOUS CYCLE.

Music ed is important because it exposes kids  
to music, something found in the world  
everywhere. Music is important in & out of  
school and taking it out of the school  
system takes it away from all the kids that  
use it to fight stress & anxiety in schools

Music education is much more than a school curriculum.

Music is one of the most important qualities for a good education, using a certain skill, it becomes a discipline, and people slowly start and people start to learn from it a whole importance aspect in our lives.

Life with music is better off, and we should be able to teach future generations about what it offers.

Music in Elementary School introduced me into chords which I have been taking for 2 years and band that I took for 5 years. Without it I would have never gotten interested in the flute or singing!

Dear Board of Ed,

I joined church in third grade just to make  
parents then cool, and made for a while  
my life. Music classes + teacher kids to have  
happyest in the school. If kids brought  
to school my friends and my teachers  
and you are killing it. DON'T deserve to be  
killed. You are 5-9 years old. You  
music doesn't matter and it deserves to be  
and teachers should be allowed.

I'm sorry, but this is absolutely insane.

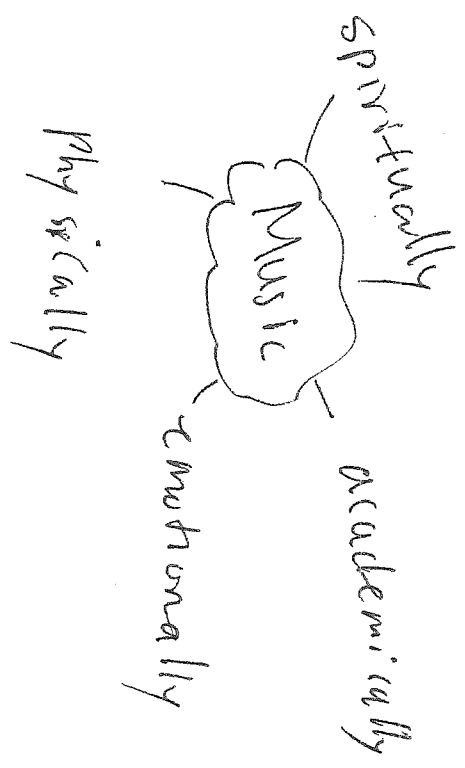
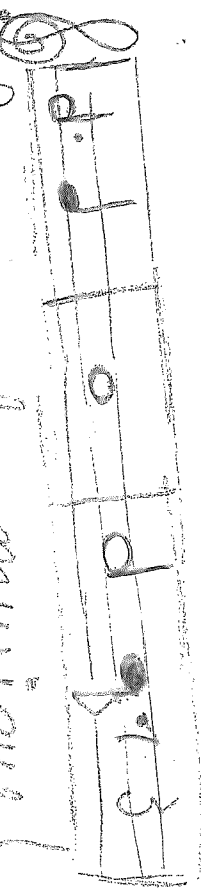
Music is everything to me. Music in elementary  
school opened my eyes to my talents, and ultimately  
to my passion in life. You are taking away  
STUDENTS RIGHTS to finding their passion.  
Plus, why is music the first one to be cut?  
This WAS NOT the music programs fault.  
And the students and their wonderful parents  
arent SHOULD NOT have to pay. This is  
shameful.

MUSIC IS AN IMPORTANT PART  
OF EDUCATION, AT ALL LEVELS.  
PERSONALLY IT ENHANCES MY LEARNING  
AND GIVES ME SOMETHING TO ASK  
FOR: THE MULTIPLE PERFORMANCES  
EACH YEAR.

Music. Music is not just playing  
instruments and making songs. Music is  
some thing what some people like or  
even love to do that attracts them in  
certain way. For me personally, music helped  
me so much throughout my life. I had  
to deal with stress and picking a hobby or  
dream was hard for me. Music popped up in  
my head in Elementary School. It was a  
good experience and I continued to look  
forward with music.



*l'art de la musique.*



"MUSIC IS A LANGUAGE  
THAT DOESN'T SPEAK IN  
PARTICULAR WORDS. IT SPEAKS  
IN EMOTIONS, AND IF THIS  
IN THE BONES, IT'S IN THE  
BONES."  
KEITH RICHMONDS

- band class is one of class that I have passionate about playing clarinet

- Playing clarinet makes me feel proud of myself
- music is all about everything in the world, no one can live w/o music

Music has impacted my life in so many ways. Ever since I am surrounded by a trustworthy community of people with similar interests, I have made friends that I may have never had if it wasn't for music. Music has brought me something to look forward to at home and in school. County-wide activities like GT band and MS&TO have brought me together with students from all over the county, bonding over a love and passion for music. Band at a school level has caused me to explore my love for music outside of school and I hope every HCPSS student to come can share in this joy.

-Presha Waldrop, HMS, 8th Grade

Music is...

DON'T CUT FUNDING FOR MUSIC

- Teamwork

- Hard work

- Determination

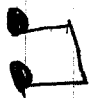
- The ability to make a difference

- The ability to calm the mind

- Unique

- Important in our lives

What would we do without it???



d

o

d.



d

d d

Music has impacted my everyday life from listening to playing. It fuels creativity and talent that a person put out's or would love to do

Music education is incredibly important to me, I have invested a lot of time and effort into it and am very proud of it. I work hard and want to get better at my instrument with my Bands and Recitals. It is the thing I look forward to the most everyday. I love my band program and the music department.

Music unit's people working hard and trying to improve people's lives. The people around me want to improve music school as a form of relaxation and as a release for stress and anxiety. My vision of a perfect school is that people have successful careers that stem from a childhood education of learning and enjoyment and gaining a love of music is vital.

Music and the arts are extremely important. Cutting funds will most likely impact the Arts department. This is a big mistake since music is one of the only things a lot of kids use to grow and develop their personalities. The arts are a keystone of someone's personality. Making these are specially a mistake when considering the fact that a lot of the art programs are exponentially growing.

The value that music education has had is going up from friends. Most of my friends have come from the band program and I may not be the same person I can't even imagine if not for music education. It has allowed me to make it through the difficulty that is school and is always a bright spot on my day.

Band has had a large influence on my life. It's been a great way for me to engage in something different and enjoyable, and I've met tons of friends along the way. As an individual, I have learned skills like independence and confidence that continue to benefit me. Band has helped me so much, and I wouldn't give it up for anything.

MUSIC has allowed me to connect and understand myself and my emotions.

MUSIC has allowed me to appreciate the world around me.

JISUM!

MUSIC





Music is an inspiration and passion of mine. Whenever I'm happy, I listen to music, whenever I'm sad, I listen to music. Music is always there for me, I have had so many great experiences in music and have made some of my closest friends. Without band class, my life would be way different, and it wouldn't be for the better. Music is as significant as Art or Dance or Gym, even up there with Science, English and Math. Even though it may not look like it, music is very important and shouldn't be taken away.

As someone that grew up in an instrumental household, elementary education was that stepping stone for me into a world that impacted my life forever. Starting music that early made me into who I am today and I wouldn't give that up for anything in the world. Children need an outlet; some choose sports or school, others choose music. Protect the music programs.



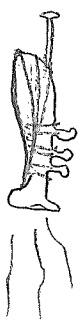
Red,



Roses are Red,  
Violets are Blue,



If you're a Musician,  
You should play!



ff

an ode to  
music  
with

Music has given me a wonderful family and a sense of purpose in life.

Music is something I grew up with and I strongly believe that we should be able to have the same great experiences in our heads.

Music written by students in MS4

Big Dog



Nick's Cat/Song



I'm a Dentist



Hip Hop Fish



The Carl

Nicky's  
Cadence

Rap I love music because it isn't just  
a way to have fun while learning.  
Music is expressing and involvement,  
and teamwork, and learning new  
skills, which are all life skills we need.  
Music is a necessity we all need,  
life without music is nothing the same.

Music has such a huge part of my life for such a long time. Starting band in elementary school introduced me to an entire new world of expression and became the <sup>5</sup> most <sup>5</sup> would have band otherwise.

Music has made a big impact on my life positively for a number of reasons. The first one is it pumps me up and gets me ready for the day. Since I have done first period my band director really pumped me up with his loud voice and great advice which I never forget! My band director helps me musically and in life. He makes me laugh which turns the bad days around. The class challenges me to take risks and when I take risks in band class those risks encourage me to take risks out of the class as well. Lets not forget all the studies there have been to show that doing a music class does correlate to the students grades. So by all means take away funding but keep in mind many students will lose some of that if you do



Kennedy Grant  
8th grade  
Hammond Middle School  
Daniel Pendley

5/19/19

Imagine the words

- with my music

"Music is to the soul

what words are to the mind."

- Madest Mouse

Don't Do It

I am currently a senior & have been playing the French horn for 9 years. I've played the piano with my grand mother since my before I could remember & it sparked my love for music. In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, I was given the opportunity to play the violin & I'm this just made me enjoy music even more. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade I knew I'd switch to band to play the French horn after hearing my grandmother's neighbor play. My love for music kept me in the marching band even during soccer & cross country & I will be sticking with it during my time at Stevenson University even while running track & cross country. I have come across many hardships in high school like the death of one of my best friends, Yashu Shah, during my Freshman year & band was my only escape. I'd hate to see that the younger students may not have the same opportunities & experiences that I have been given.

I just think of  
our futures

