



# WORLD'S LEADING ACADEMIC COUNTRIES VALUE MUSIC EDUCATION

**Hungary, Netherlands and Japan top worldwide science achievement and have strong commitment to music education.**

The top-performing students on the 1988 International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IAEEA) Test in science were the eighth and ninth graders from Hungary, followed by those from the Netherlands and Japan.

All three countries have required music training at the elementary and middle school levels, both instrumental and vocal, for several decades. The centrality of music education to learning in the top-ranked countries seems to contradict the United States' focus on math, science, vocabulary, and technology.

Local education policy and funding should take a lesson from these high academically ranking countries and recognize the long-term learning benefits of music by making it an integral part of every child's education.

