

École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite D'Youville  
Music Parents Association

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you on behalf of the École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite D'Youville Music Parents Association (ESSMY MPA). Our organization is a registered society under the Alberta Societies Act and is made up of parent volunteers whose mission is to support, raise awareness and fundraise for the ESSMY junior high and high school bands. The benefits of music education have been proven time and time again and have been shown to improve success in school, in developing intelligence, in society and in life.

Being in the school Band has its own benefits on top of music education. Band reinforces the skills of cooperation which are among the qualities most highly valued in business and industry. Members are required to shift from an I/me focus to a we/us focus. Instead of the logic being, "what's in it for me?" it becomes "what's in it for us?" Band is a group effort that focuses on group goals and the completion of those goals in each and every rehearsal and performance.

Band also builds relationships across grade and age levels. Band increases social skills and builds confidence in the younger children and increases empathy, compassion and leadership skills in the older students. Research shows that not only does music education enhance cognitive development but it fosters discipline and a positive attitude toward school and academics, encourages creativity, builds teamwork, celebrates cultural diversity and is influential in lowering school dropout rates.

On March 13, 2020, ESSMY will be hosting "Soirée de la Musique", our annual spring concert and fundraiser. It is an evening of music performed by the students from both junior high and high school. The St. Albert Community Band will also be performing. Your help with our event would go a long way to making our night successful. We would greatly appreciate a donation of an item or service for raffle or silent auction. In return for your generosity, we will display your company's logo along with the item and publish your company's contribution in our music programme.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at [\*\*mpa.essmy@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:mpa.essmy@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

*Robb Heit*  
MPA Vice Chair

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*\*further reading on benefits of music education:*  
<http://www.childrensmusicworkshop.com/advocacy/benefits/html>