

Dear Members of the Stamford Board of Finance,

I am writing to you today with a heartfelt appeal regarding the funding for elementary school music programs in our district. As a concerned community member, advocate for comprehensive education, and most importantly former SPS music student elementary-high school and wife of an SPS music educator, I urge you to carefully consider the implications of any potential cuts to these invaluable programs.

Elementary school music education plays a pivotal role in the holistic development of our children. It fosters creativity, enhances cognitive skills, promotes teamwork, and instills a lifelong appreciation for the arts. Moreover, research consistently demonstrates that students engaged in music education perform better academically and exhibit improved social-emotional well-being.

By providing access to music education at the elementary level, we are laying down the foundation for future success and well-rounded individuals. These programs not only enrich students' lives but also contribute to the cultural vibrancy of our community.

I understand the challenges the Board of Education faces in allocating resources, especially in the current economic climate. However, I urge you to explore alternative solutions and prioritize the preservation of elementary school music programs. Cutting funding in this area would not only deprive our children of valuable learning opportunities but also diminish the overall quality of education in our district.

Furthermore, I encourage the Board to consider the long-term consequences of such cuts. Investing in music education now will pay dividends in the form of empowered students who are equipped with essential skills for success in the future.

As stewards of our education system, I implore you to prioritize the well-being and academic enrichment of our students by maintaining adequate funding for elementary school music programs. Your decision will have a lasting impact on the lives of countless children and the vitality of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust that you will make the right choice for the benefit of our students and our community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Emilia Goldstein

Westover Elementary, clarinet '99
Cloonan Middle School, clarinet '02
Westhill High School, clarinet, colorguard (marching band), jazz piano '06
Stamford High School Colorguard Instructor, Fall 2010