

# You Could be Someone's Hero

By Sean Crocker and Samantha Rumbley

On May 12, 2009, the Blood Bank of Delmarva sponsored a blood drive for North Dorchester High School staff and students.

Every year, over 20,000 people need blood on the Delmarva Peninsula. This statistic includes automotive accident victims, kids with leukemia, newborn babies, people having surgery, cancer patients, and maybe even someone you know. On the Blood Bank of Delmarva website, facts are given about donating blood. One of the most fascinating facts included is that 40% of people can donate blood, but only 10% do.

As long as you were 17 years of age or older, at least 110 pounds, and in good health, you were allowed to donate blood. From eight until two, NDHS staff, students, and dedicated members of the community filled the auditorium to make their contribution to the blood drive.

The National Honor



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Society, led by Mr. Willey, headed and organized the blood drive. The call for our help was given, and NDHS answered the call. The call for our help was given, and NDHS answered the call with

111 participants of the cause.

"Giving blood is a life-saving gift. Your one donation means hope for recovery and often the difference between life and death for as many as three patients. Please

give it a try. You'll be someone's hero." (Blood Bank of Delmarva Brochure)

Mr. Willey spoke very highly of the occasion. "The National Honor Society has annually set and surpassed the expect-

tations of the Blood Drive. We go 111 of 120 students, a school record. Thanks to everyone who donated, students and staff. Thanks to Stephanie Durham, Maryjo Short, and Nicole Harding."

## Importance of Music

By Emily Thomas

Because of the current economic crisis, schools across the country have to cut classes from the curriculum to cope; the first to be cut are normally music classes and band ensembles.

Here at North Dorchester High School, we have been lucky enough to keep our music department intact; however, other schools are not as lucky.

Music and any other kind of art is a vital key in a child's development and education. Statistics prove that playing a musical instrument can help students mentally faster than a student who does not.

Being a part of a band of some sort can help improve a child's self-esteem. The idea of having that sort of talent really boosts the child's esteem. Imagine being part of something that sounds so amazing that everyone comes up to you and compliments you for it; it feels

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good.

A child who plays an instrument expands the imagination of every child. People who are in a musical band can picture anything. They do not see the probability, but the possibility. Once they feel the accomplishment of playing an instrument, they can do anything to which they set their minds.

In addition, students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs among any group

in our society. A person that is dedicating all of his time to learning an instrument does not have the time to worry about how to score some dope.

Also, students that are studying some sort of music class have been shown to hold higher grade point averages than non-musicians in the same school. The people that are studying music know how to study, and when it comes time to make a project or study for a test, musically inclined students generally do better. These same music students do not procrastinate with their work. They do what is asked and with minimal complaining.

Teachers who teach students that are in band have noticed that band members are less aggressive than those who do not. When someone is in band, they take out their anger on the music they play, using it as a creative outlet. They use their skills, not their fists.

Students who study music also have better teamwork skills than

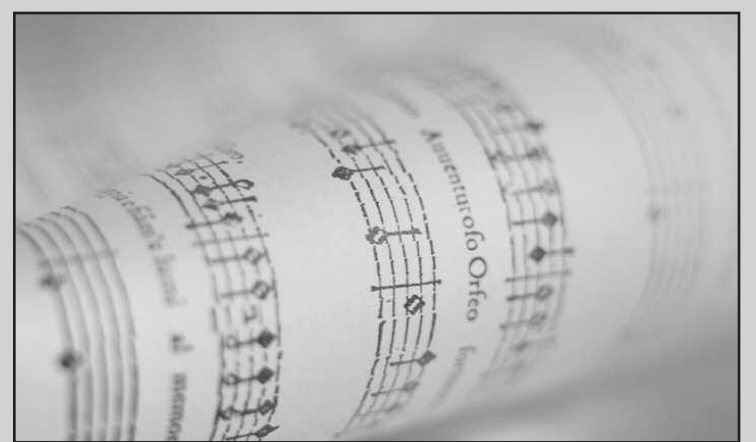


Photo Courtesy of Google Images

those who do not. To be a successful band, every single person has to be willing to work together. If one person gets a bad attitude or does not want to play, the band will fall apart. The sloth-blues spread like wildfire with everyone, so if one person doesn't want to do anything, then the whole band will crash and burn.

Being a part of an instrumental band makes every child feel special. It gives them a sense of worth and accomplishment. Without this music education, we could have an

epidemic of kids who aren't driven to do anything. They will feel as though they aren't needed. They could turn to drugs and violence instead of flats and sharps. Music is essential for any child's development, so taking these classes out of school is a very horrible thing to do for their future.