

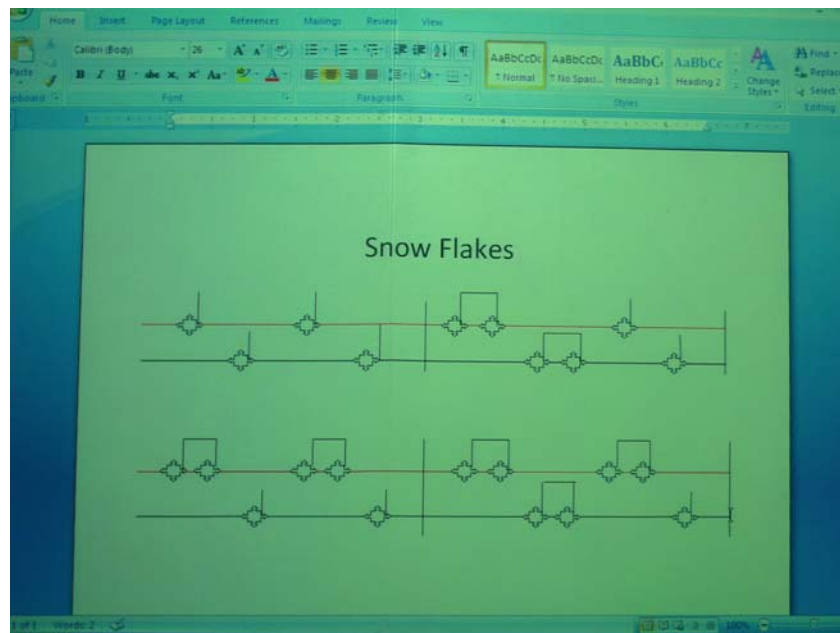
Low Cost Technology for General Music

by Dave Smith, Treasure State Orff Chapter

Rational Why should technology invade the General Music classroom? The only reason to have technology in any classroom is to enhance education. If it does not clarify, attract and/or help hold the interest of a student then it has no purpose. Technology may even distract from learning. But technology can illustrate, illuminate and hold students attention if used right.

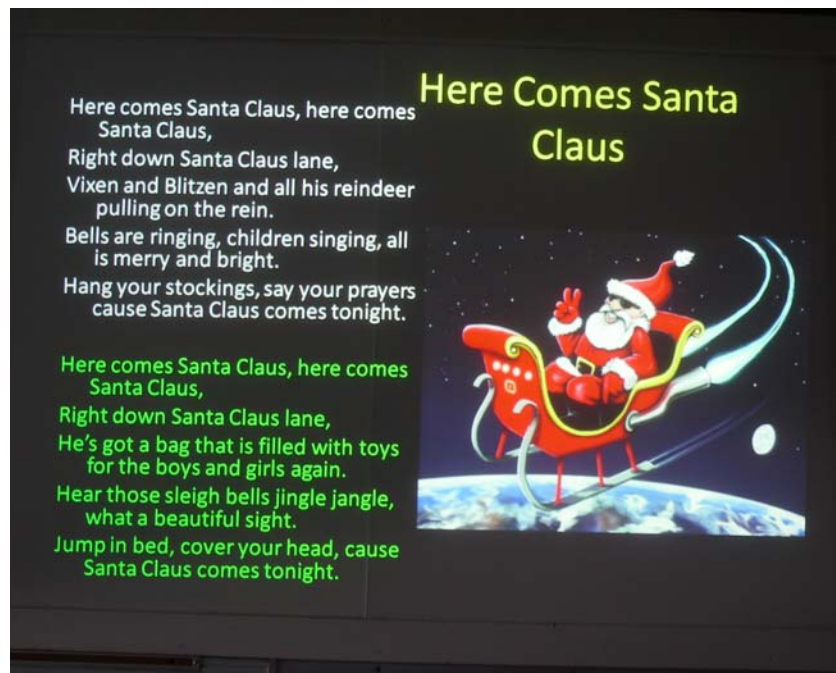
Hardware My classroom has a simple set up. A computer is connected to a projector that shows on a large screen. There is also a moderately priced stereo (\$120.00) and a mixer (\$60.00) so that sounds from the computer play through the stereo. Smart Boards are in almost every classroom in our school, but I don't have one. I don't think the software associated with a Smart Board supports General Music well enough at this time. I would love for someone to prove me wrong on this, but at this time my room has no Smart Board.

Microsoft Office This technology doesn't need to cost a lot. Much of it comes loaded on many school computers. These programs would be Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Movie Maker. Charts and diagrams for series like the Kriske and Delelles Game Plan can be made on **Microsoft Word** as well. The image quality is better than with transparencies shown on an overhead projector. These can be stored in files on the computer rather than a series of three ring note books.

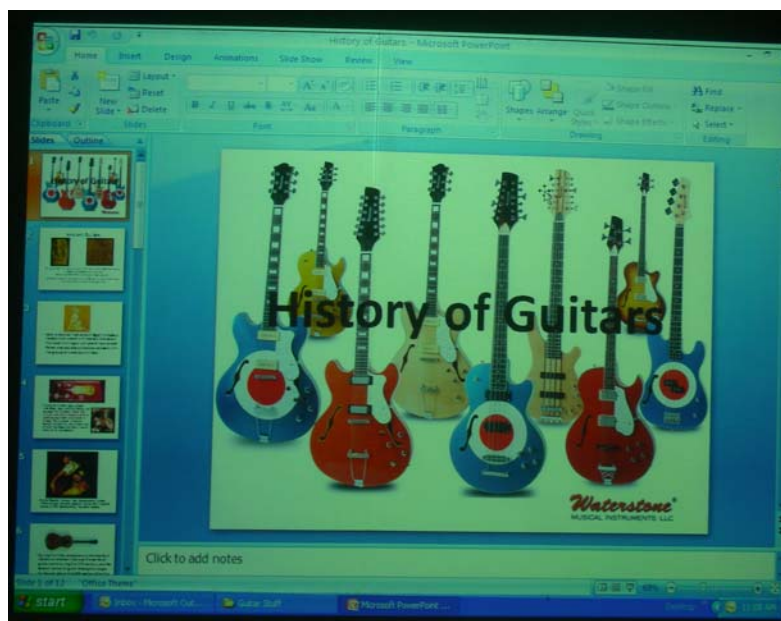


Simple non-traditional notation can also be created such as the one needed to illustrate "Snow Flakes" from the Kriske and Delelles Game Plan Grade One using shapes. The students can follow along the pattern or point with a laser pointer.

Microsoft Word can produce lyric sheets both to hand out and to project on the screen. This cuts down on printing costs though many students still want a printed copy to study at home.



Power Point presentations have a number of uses as well. Lyric sheets shown on Power Point slides will completely fill the screen where Microsoft Word images will have tool bars at the top and bottom. This means you can put more verses on the screen and still have words legible.



Power Point presentations of Music History can be much more interesting if they include a wealth of pictures. Almost anything can be found on Google images from Les Paul’s “The Log” guitar to crumhorns and shawms. Another advantage of using a Power Point format is brevity. One must learn to communicate with the least amount of words possible to leave room for all of the pictures. Movie Maker also provides an eye catching way of presenting information.

Name	Behavior -10 for each infraction	Grade	Quarter Grade
Syerra Bauer	0	0%	
Kaitlyn Campbell	0	0%	
Megan Charaz	0	0%	
Patrick Charles	0	0%	
Spencer Collins	0	0%	
Jaylene Dahab	0	0%	
Kyle Fritsch	0	0%	
Melissa Haugen	0	0%	
Coltin Homer	0	0%	
Loren Lundstrom	0	0%	
Taylor Martin	0	0%	
Victoria Martino	0	0%	
Matthew McGinnis	0	0%	
Brooke Harris	0	0%	
Dave Nystrom	0	0%	
Easton Oliver	0	0%	
Elsara Polevoy	0	0%	
Hangen Tarver	0	0%	
Austin Tripp	0	0%	
Elijah Walker	0	0%	
Gabby Waucher	0	0%	
Destiny Weiss	0	0%	
Cody Williams	0	0%	
Molencia Worley	0	0%	

Excellent = 95% & up
 Satisfactory = 75-94%
 Needs Improvement = 50% & below

Microsoft Excel can easily produce simple spread sheets for grading Music classes. Once the spread sheet has been created assignments and grades can be quickly entered. The students can have very quick feedback and often focus harder to achieve a better grade. Final grading at the end of the quarter is a snap. Your school tech specialist can walk you through creating these. Colors are a fun way to make the charts easier to read.

Music Notation The ability to write, edit, print, play back, and eventually project legible music is invaluable. Rewriting Don Muro’s “Easy 8” songs with repeated phrases in a more concise presentation makes them easier to learn. Each phrase could be shown in one of four different colors. A lazer pointer is a fun way to direct student’s focus.



Another use of a Music notation program is to create piano accompaniments for hands free playback. These leave the teacher free to focus on the students rather than the piano. Tempos and key signatures of computer produced accompaniments can be easily adjusted and saved, allowing you to fit the tessitura of your students. The final arrangement can be saved as an audio file and burned on a CD. These CDs can allow classroom teachers practice songs for a program. This is great for those of us who are piano challenged.

Music notation programs like Finale (\$267.50) and Sibelius (\$249.00) can be costly even with educator discounts. Note Pad, a watered down version of Finale has been free for many years. Make Music Inc. now sells its Note Pad 2009 for \$9.95 if you download it (<http://www.finalemusic.com/printmusic/>). Check with your band director for older versions supplied free in the band method "Essential Elements".

Internet Our school received a grant for 28 laptop computers and a large portable cabinet. On occasion there have been Junior High assignments that could be put on line. The students find their lesson in a folder on the "P" Public drive for the school. They open and complete the assignment and carefully "Save As" store their work in another folder labeled for their class. There are complications to doing this, but no-one has altered anyone else's work to date.



Google searches can often lead to great U-Tube movies for last minute Indian Education lessons. By all means preview all U-Tube materials.

Conclusions The use of technology has increased my effectiveness in the classroom. The images in this paper are photographs from the screen in our Music room of lessons I have used. There are days where no technology is employed. But, I am convinced that on the days when the projector is on my students are more focused and better aware of what I want them to learn.