

What's the Problem?



Ways to Honor the Importance of Music



March is Music In Our Schools Month. Here are some ideas to incorporate music into your classroom and school.

- 1. Use song parodies to learn.** This is a fun and easy way to help students memorize key facts and even grasp advanced concepts. For example, you might go over the steps of the Water Cycle by changing the words to *"Wheels on the Bus"*, or perhaps a new version of *"Yankee Doodle"* could be used to teach students about early American History.
- 2. Find the "Core" of the music.** All of the core subject areas — math, language arts, science, social studies — are incorporated into the music we listen to. Break a popular song down by discussing its mathematical beat, or go over the meaning of the lyrics (language arts). You can also take time to explain how we hear and interpret the music (science), and how the song might be significant in our society or in a historical context (social studies).
- 3. Host a Musical Game Show.** Arrange to use the school auditorium or lunchroom for a couple of hours in a musical trivia contest, or a "Name That Tune" game, or even a "Sing the Right Lyrics" competition. Make it easy for the younger kids with songs like *"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"*, and the older children might be able to work with popular radio songs. Award musical-themed prizes to the winners.
- 4. "In the future, music will...."** Encourage the students in your school to think big. Hold an essay contest where you challenge students to imagine how music will change in the future (including the style, and how we listen and interact with it). Select one winner from each grade. If your school holds morning announcements, work with your school principal to feature one winner per day reading their essay over the public address system.
- 5. Put together a Musical Talent Show.** Invite students to share their musical talents. Of course, this will include vocal and instrumental performances. You may even want to extend it to song-writing or team performances (i.e. bands). This can become a major school event, or a competition, or simply a small performance where each class has a few minutes on the stage. Whatever you do, have fun with it.

Need more ideas? Here are some school-wide activities that you can use to honor music

- Have a **bulletin board** contest
- Create a **mural** or **art display**
- Conduct **mock interviews** with famous musicians
- Ask classes to create and perform **musical skits**
- Organize a **school parade** to honor musical genres and musicians
- Invite a local musician as a **guest speaker** or **performer**
- Have each room create a **timeline** for musical genres or similar themes
- Read **musical lyrics** over the loud speaker throughout the day