



# Successfully Using Guitar in a Music Program

Or.....How do I teach my kids guitar and not lose my mind in the process since I cannot play, do not want to play, do not like the guitar, have no desire to touch a guitar, but am STUCK doing this because I have to!!!!



- **FIRST:** Is what you are about to teach based on the standards? (Can you justify the learning through what we are supposed to teach).

– We all must know our standards

- Creating
- Performing
- Responding





SECOND: How do you go about teaching guitar (especially if you yourself are NOT a guitarist)

- Supplies (how to get guitars in your classroom)
  - (donorschoose.org); put an ad in craigslist
    - YOU buy some and donate them
      - » Find out the value....tax write off





# Curriculum...



**WHERE do I get the “stuff” I  
need  
to be able to successfully  
teach this to students?**

- Choose a book YOU can use and be happy. One that will benefit what you want to teach them

– If you only have them limited time do you really want to teach note reading?

- Chords are PART of the guitar....chords are GREAT to teach kids and are completely usable throughout their life



- IF you are teaching “note reading”
  - **WHY?** What purpose will it serve THEM and YOU.....and your program





# • Dear Jim,

- What book(s) do you recommend us to use?
- What do you use?
- Why do you use that?
- What if I really can't do it (play the guitar)?
- What if my kids are better than me and I feel embarrassed?
- What if Kids ask ME to play for them...and I can't?
- OTHER QUESTIONSSSSSSSS????????????



Books I recommend:

H. O. T. (Nancy Marsters)

dry, somewhat boring, songs are not so great (but SOLID material for curriculum)

Essential Elements (Will Schmid and Bob Morris)

great book for chords, strumming, and the CD (WOW)—kids love this  
(but...note reading...no...curriculum..not so solid)

Jerry Snyder's Guitar School (solid curriculum..but can be very intense. GREAT for PIMA)

Bill Swick.com (great ensemble stuff....easy and accessible)

Andrew Forrest Guitar Ensembles (<http://www.forrestguitarensembles.co.uk>)

(HUGE amount of FREE literature at all levels)

Eythor Thorlaksseon (<https://www.classical-guitar-school.com/en/Eythor>)

(HUGE amount of FREE literature at all levels)

TONS of other stuff out there....you have to decide what is best for you and your kids. (and your objectives)



- WHY use these:
  - HOT—curriculum
  - Essential Elements—chords/CD
  - Snyder book—great songs for PIMA and CD

I CAN'T PLAY GUITAR.....I am a

You do not have to really play guitar. You have to demonstrate it. You have to guide THEM to play it. You do not have to be great..or even good...

You just have to demonstrate...and move on!

My kids are better than me..and I am embarassed

GREAT!!! Isn't that what we all want our kids to do? Be BETTER than us? Do not be embarassed.....you did not major in this instrument...you are just guiding them to be great.

My kids ask me to play...and I can't

Don't. Remind them that you are here to guide them to play. This "show" is not about YOU...it's about THEM.

# EMPIRE

- How did I build my empire?

- BUILD IT...THEY WILL COME
- GREATNESS...we will only be GREAT (all levels)
- NEVER GIVE UP on a KID or YOURSELF (they and YOU can achieve)
- EXPECTATIONS EXPECTATIONS EXPECTATIONS
- Quality performances...kids want to be proud of what they do....show them off!
- Create levels.....so you can feed from the bottom up
  - ME: 3 classes of beginning; 1 class of intermed/advanced; 1 class out elite touring
    - My beginning classes are HUGE (on purpose); I would prefer intermediate and advanced be split into two classes (but for now...)
      - THIS allows me to have enough for an elite group.

# Student Discussion

## Guiding Questions:

- What do you see in this program and how it is/was developed?
- Why are you a part of it?
- What does it do for you?
- Why is it successful?
- How do students “buy in” to this program?