

Music in the Classroom

By Lauren Bisset

I have a passion for music, and have been thinking recently about the ways that it can be used for learning. When I was in high school, some of my favourite assignments included a musical aspect, whether it was writing a song, analyzing lyrics like poetry, or making a video with a musical component.



There are so many ways to use music in the classroom, including:

Studying music in L2
in a language
classroom

Rewriting popular
songs to aid with
memory, such as in
Science or Math

Playing music related to
a historical time or
literary work to give
context

Character work, such as
making a playlist that
represents a character
in a literary work or
even a historical figure

Playing music to
improve classroom
culture in a P.E. or Art
class, for example

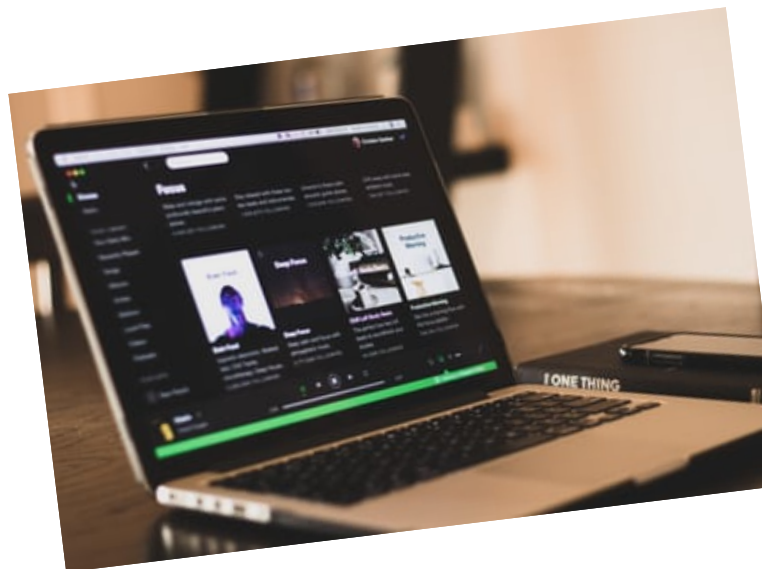
There are many educators that take advantage of music in their teaching, but here are just 3 examples that I found:

[This article](#) explains how easy it is to integrate music into any classroom, even if teachers feel as though they don't have adequate training or musical background. Some examples they give: using a song as an indicator that it is time to transition to the next task, giving them agency over their learning, and using it as a brain break.



An [Albertan teacher](#) that used music in his math classroom of “diagnosed as learning disabled” learners to great success. He relied on scientific effects of music on the brain to calm them, allow them to focus, and as a result improve their self-esteem.

In [this article](#), a high school art teacher explains his creation, “The Music List,” in which he allows his students to create their playlist for the day, giving each student a turn to pick one song. He explains the benefits he has found this method produces, including how he can use it for classroom management and how it helps cultivate classroom culture.



While classrooms that don't allow for as much free time as art classrooms do might not be able to have a Music List every day, I really like the idea of giving students some choice in the music that they're listening to and of course there are situations in different subjects that allow for a louder classroom, such as group work and working on projects.

There are teachers and schools that allow students to listen to music through their personal headphones in some situations, which I can see working sometimes, but I like the social aspect of the entire class listening to the same music, helping to create a sense of community in the classroom.

What do you guys think?

Do you like the idea of "The Music List"?

Can you see yourself using music as a learning tool or in some other way in the classroom, and how?