



GEC3 CONTROLLER

The GEC3 controller is located at the teacher station in the MIDI lab. All the thirteen stations are equipped with two headsets. Students can “call in” to the teacher for individual instruction. The students can also be connected to each other to work together on a project.

TEACHER STATIONS

The MIDI classroom teacher station is comprised of an iMac, weighted MIDI keyboard, a Mac Mini (off the server) and a personal laptop. All are connected to the screen and speakers. Also, the station has a Superscope CD recording device that can record any sounds from the headsets, piano keyboard, and/or microphone.

In the band room, there is an identical teacher station with all the hardware and software that is in the lab.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

❖ WWW.CAROLBROOS.COM ❖

This website won “2007 Best of the Web” for the best student-centered site from Digital Government and Education. It has blogs, links, calendars, and much more.

❖ WWW.BEATECHIE.COM ❖

Carol’s blog for music and technology educators.

❖ MUSICTECHIE.PBWORKS.COM ❖

A wiki with presentation notes and links.

❖ BEATECHIE.PBWORKS.COM ❖

A wiki with the entire music curriculum used at SRS.

❖ WWW.CHORDSVILLE.COM ❖

A student-created site, had its birth in the Vermont MIDI project. It has the original composition, a video, blog, and pictures.

❖ WWW.LAZERTRON.NET ❖

A student-created site with flash games and music. It won a National website award in 2008.



The Vermont MIDI Project is an incredible program in its twelfth year. Students compose music and professional composer mentors comment on a password protected website. Vermont MIDI provides professional development at a week-long summer institute in Castleton, Vermont.

Currently, Sunset Ridge School is participating in its second year with this project. Please visit the website to find out more about this and the project.

❖ WWW.VTMIDI.ORG ❖

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MIDI LAB

SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29



❖ NORTHFIELD, IL ❖

The Keyboard/MIDI Lab at Sunset Ridge School houses hardware and software for personal productivity, MIDI recording, musical notation, and educational software for learning to play piano, ear training, music theory, and music appreciation. The room contains iMacs class computers with CD-ROM drives, sound cards, and MIDI interfaces, each is connected via audio and MIDI to a General MIDI digital piano.



How We Started

Carol Broos, General Music Teacher

Don Golden, Band Director

THE BEGINNING

We started with available computers the District was not using. They were not connected to the server or internet. Students saved on discs. The teachers downloaded the files at their homes or to the school's server. The final step was to print out the compositions and individual projects.

When projects needed the internet, the Learning Center was available on a limited basis. As the projects became more involved and louder, the technology department dropped thirty-two internet lines to the music room.

In the band room, there was no internet connection, so a laptop was purchased and a wireless system was installed.

THE START OF SOMETHING BIG

Through the funding of the Professional Growth Committee in the District, a working Soundtree Lab was seen at the MENC convention in Minneapolis. The groundwork for obtaining a lab for Sunset Ridge progressed. A suggestion: THINK BIG. Surprise! Everything that was asked for was approved through the Technology department.

THE FIRST YEAR OF THE LAB

The learning curve is amazing. Carol had twelve "techie" students arrive the week before school started. They completed "practice" lessons in order to have a smooth start of the year. Second suggestion: think small on the projects in the first year.

THE SECOND YEAR OF THE LAB

This year was much easier. With the addition of the VERMONT MIDI project, students would compose on the internet. The development of multi-media projects increased. Music and technology are now integrated into all facets of curriculum through the general music classes.

THE THIRD YEAR OF THE LAB

The year of multi-media. We upgraded to iLife '06 and added iWeb. Students now post music, videos, podcasts, pictures, blogs, all to involving music. More

students are involved in the Vermont MIDI project and even more students are involved in performing groups and private lessons. We added a mac-mini, off the server, for "super user" students working on movies and websites.

THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE LAB

More students are enrolled in the Vermont MIDI project. The projector was hung with surround sound, and a free-standing recorder was purchased for podcasting. The website, www.pod29.com is created, an all-district 29 "school tube," where students can post videos, podcasts, and flash games for school. CS3 is purchased for the mac-mini; a google elective is added so students learning code can work. A talent show is presented for all the students that want to perform. Playstation 2 with Guitar Hero II and III was purchased for special days. The MIDI lab is hopping!

THE FIFTH YEAR OF THE LAB

Individualization and collaboration are themes of the year. New iMacs, with iLife '08 were added along with a separate server. Students were able to work fast and collaborate more. A Promethean board was also added, students create flipcharts for the music classroom and an Elmo "document reader," really helped in showing students individual iTouch games and other hard to see objects. With the "Best Buy," award seven iPods and speakers were purchased for individual instruction. Presentations at Illinois Computing and skyping to Illinois Music Educators Association Conference highlighted the MIDI lab.

LOOKING AHEAD

Keeping the lab operating effectively is a constant challenge. Ensuring all the headsets and computers work along with trouble-shooting, are daily responsibilities.



The MIDI Lab is THE place to be at Sunset Ridge School.

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SOFTWARE AVAILABLE

Band-in-a-box
iLife (GarageBand, iMovie, iPhoto, iTunes, iWeb)
iWork (Pages, Keynote)
Music Ace I
Musicus
Sibelius 5
Sibelius Instruments
Sibelius Compass and Tracker
Sound Studio
Macromedia Suite (Dreamweaver, Flash)