

iCan Play in the iPad2 iBand!

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The iPad is a springboard for creative uses of technology and makes playing musical instruments accessible for all students because of the touch-based platform. With the iPad2 power on -- the students can immediately play the guitar, drums, triangle, accordion, ukelele, piano, cow bell, jingle bells, and even a door bell.

At Lee School the students in my special needs music classes range in age from Kindergarten to age 21. The students are classified as severely and profoundly disabled; however, I continue to learn from them daily. Most are nonverbal, several are in wheelchairs, two students are blind; many are on the autistic spectrum. While cognitively and physically impaired, these students triumph each day. Smiles abound; laughter fills the room.

The iPad2 helps compensate for an individual's specific learning deficits. Assistive technology doesn't cure nor eliminate learning difficulties; but, it can help students capitalize on strengths and bypass areas of difficulty.

Music, as an intervention with special needs students, is a valuable resource that can lead to the strengthening of skills and the promotion of personal development.

ALL students have the opportunity to fully participate in music class.

Music, together with assistive technology, supports existing skills and helps compensate for physical and verbal deficits. Nonverbal forms of communication via music often surpass physical, cultural, intellectual, and emotional limitations by including modern technology.

Sensory integration is an important part of assistive technology and musical instrument apps. Students seem to instinctively know how to play the musical instruments. They enjoy experimenting with the variety, the sounds, and the motions of the instruments.

With the iPad2's, students have a better chance to express themselves as individuals and as a part of the iPad2 iBand.

The iPad technology assists students reach their fullest musical potential. Expressive communication skills, social interaction, attention skills, motivational skills, and independence will be enhanced with the consistent use of the iPad2's.

Students benefit from the iPad2 technology:

- Physical Skills
- Communication Skills
- Social Skills
- Emotional/Motivational Skills
- Positive Self-Esteem

Technology helps compensate for an individual's specific learning and physical deficits. Students are able to capitalize on their strengths and bypass areas of difficulty. With the tactile approach to learning, students have the opportunity to participate in music education in schools by having accommodating materials, adaptive instruments, and kinesthetic learning experiences.

To see, hear, feel, and play musical instruments on the iPad2 is an important comprehensive experience for every student.

Learning about music with hands-on experiences provides opportunities for self-expression and opens up new avenues for making discoveries, not only in music, but in core curricular areas, also.

All students are able to successfully participate in music, even if they face a variety of challenges in life.

During music time, students utilize the iPad2 technology in order to iPerform, iListen, iDiscover, iCommunicate, iShare, iCan, iAm motivated, iAm successful, and iPlay musical instruments.

Websites providing additional insights into the iPad2's power with special needs students:

- Hands on Music: An iPad Band for Students with Disabilities! <http://vimeo.com/27061399>
- Technology/Special Needs by Christine Dowd (the next steps to core curricular subjects and life skills)
cdowd@apple.com
- Apps in Education/Music Apps
http://appsineducation.blogspot.com/p/music-ipad-apps_20.html
- Lee School Music Video
<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/teachers/mvon/?p=21199&b=5>
- Photo Galleries
www.springfield.k12.il.us
Schools -- Go to Lee School or Owen Marsh School
Teachers -- Mary von Liski
[My website](#) -- Photo's

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