

Curriculum Ideas, Success Stories, and Lesson Starters

This section provides suggestions for just some of the ways you can enrich your curriculum with the use of iPod and iTunes.

Supporting Second Language Acquisition

Students can use the iPod to assist with learning a foreign language. They can listen to audio recordings to learn words and phrases, hearing the proper pronunciations on the iPod. They can also record themselves using iPod and a voice recorder or with GarageBand to practice the language and improve their fluency. Using the lyrics and album art information in each audio file can further reinforce the learning of another language. For example, if the text of what a student is listening to is pasted into the Lyrics portion of the audio file, students can see and hear the content. The images included with the audio file as “album art” provide a visual for the audio file being listened to.

Building Reading Fluency

Struggling readers do not know what they would sound like as a fluent reader. You can record students who are struggling with reading in GarageBand as they read a passage. Then edit the recording by eliminating pauses and miscues so that the student sounds as fluent as possible. Send the edited recording to iTunes and sync with an iPod. Let the student listen to himself or herself reading naturally—that recording then becomes the bar the student strives for when reading aloud.

Motivating Readers with Audiobooks

Audiobooks can be purchased for use on the iPod, or older students can use an iPod with a voice recorder or GarageBand to narrate and record books for younger students to listen to, perhaps with each older student reading one chapter in a book. The iPod can then become a “listening center” while the younger students read the text. In this way, the child’s auditory and visual senses are receiving the input. Some teachers find it helpful to have hesitant or struggling readers listen to the first chapter of a book on an iPod so they can get “hooked” on the book, and then have them read the rest of the book on their own.

Reaching All Learners

iPod can be a supportive tool in the learning possibilities for students with special needs. Using an iPod, students at all levels can listen to audiobooks, speeches, foreign language samples, and podcasts. Students can also reinforce their auditory learning by viewing slides, photos, and video as well as text files. Use of the iPod can help visually impaired students access the curriculum via audio files. English language learners, students who struggle with reading and writing, and students who need auditory and visual input simultaneously for learning to “stick”—these students will all be well-served by an iPod.

The iPod can be loaded with audio versions of your lectures, audiobooks, famous speeches, Keynote presentations to use for homework support or test review, and more. And with a voice recorder connected to the iPod, students can record many types of audio files—for example, ELL students can record and play back English dialogue, and students with literacy needs can record reading samples for assessment or reading practice, or they can record notes if they have difficulty with written note-taking.

Using iPod for Assessment

Oral language sampling is one way to evaluate the language of students with a hearing loss or any language delay. Recorded speech and language can be analyzed to know which grammatical structures and speech sounds the student has mastered, as well as to identify new goals. A voice recording is often a more accurate indicator of the communication ability of a student than evidence obtained through formal tests, and the recordings can be used year after year to track student progress. The teacher uses an iPod with a voice

recorder to record a student telling a story, describing a picture, sharing information about a favorite toy from home, or talking about anything that will have the student leading the conversation. Next, the recording is imported into iTunes to save in the student's audio playlist. The teacher can then use an iPod or iTunes to easily move to any point in the sample for ease of use in transcribing and reviewing the student speech sample. These samples can also readily be shared with parents or a student study team. Using an iPod and iTunes for capturing and storing these voice recordings greatly simplifies the process. For more detailed instructions, visit: <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=10672>

Lesson Starters for Integrating iPod into Your Curriculum

Sueños—Dreams: Immigration Stories - ELL

When families immigrate to the United States, it is challenging for students to learn a new language and stay motivated in school. When students tell their stories of immigration, however, they all have the same theme: they were here in search of a better life. Hence, the name Sueños. In this project, English language learners (ELL) are assigned a lesson that focuses on reflection, reading, writing, oral language development, and presentation skills. The students work individually to script their story of their journey to this country and create a short presentation movie in iMovie HD. Students have the opportunity to discuss their experiences and memories of leaving their native country, but also include thoughts, ideas, and dreams of coming to live in the United States and coming to school here. Students use an iPod and a voice recorder to create recordings of their reflections in both English and their native language, such as Spanish. The audio files are added to the movie as a narration track. They add appropriate images to illustrate each point. With this project, ELL students use an iPod and other technology tools to motivate and assist them in developing their oral language skills. The project incorporates multiple intelligences through the use of text, audio, and image files.

Walking Tour of the School or Community

In this project, students work in groups to create audio tours of their school or community. Students use an iPod and a voice recorder to record commentary and sounds at various places on the tours. They take photos of the various stops to illustrate the commentary. They then combine the audio and photos with music and any additional narration in GarageBand to create enhanced audio files for each episode. Each final mix can be exported back to the iPod for use as an audio tour guide for other visitors or can be published as an enhanced podcast for downloading by community members. Audio tours can focus on historical aspects of the community and involve the local historical society as a community outreach project. Audio tours of the school are a great way to familiarize prospective and new students with all of the wonderful aspects of your school. The project provides a team approach to learning that caters to a variety of learning styles within each team. The use of the iPod allows easy recording and capture of information, sounds, and reflections and is an excellent way to share the students' work.

Morning Announcements Podcast

In this project, a team of students creates a regular podcast of the school's morning announcements. Regular features such as a "Word of the Day" or "Joke of the Day" can be added to further engage students. Audio announcements and banter are recorded using an iPod and a voice recorder. The audio is then combined with relevant photos in GarageBand to create an enhanced audio file. Using iWeb, a regular podcast is created and posted. Staff, students, and parents can subscribe to the *Morning Announcements* podcast and stay up to date with relevant information. The project encourages a team approach for a regular group of students and caters to many different learning styles.

Oral Histories

During a course of study in American history, students investigate the theme of what it means to be American in a pluralistic society. One way students can explore this question is by conducting oral histories with a family member and creating a presentation of the interview. After a discussion about what it means to be an American, students use an iPod and a voice recorder to interview a family member. They then combine the interview with old photos of that relative in iMovie HD and create a short video history about that person. The final movies are presented to the class. In this way, students begin to develop a better understanding of their own family history

as a means for framing a discussion and an understanding of who they are themselves. For detailed instructions, visit: <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=10667>

iPod Reporters

In this project, students explore the basics of news reporting and gain an understanding of why news is news and what their responsibilities are as news gatherers. Students then plan a class newspaper. After determining topics for articles, students head out, equipped with an iPod and a voice recorder, to interview their sources. They download their interviews to iTunes when they return to class. They then compose their stories and complete and distribute their newspaper. Using an iPod to record interviews for a newspaper story allows students to concentrate on an interview while it is happening rather than trying to take notes as they listen. This is especially helpful for younger students or those who face challenges with hearing, writing, or attending to multiple tasks. When the interview is over, students can listen to it again and again, allowing them to include accurate quotes and details in their stories. For detailed instructions, visit: <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=10669>

Digital Science Experiments

Students sometimes find it difficult to conduct science experiments, especially if they are visual learners and have a difficult time with written or oral instructions. By using recordings of the teacher's instructions and student observations combined with photos of an experiment's progress, all students can review and observe what occurred. The teacher uses an iPod and a voice recorder to provide experiment instructions to small groups of students. Students listen to the directions first, then they observe and record their experiment steps and results using a digital camera and an iPod. The images and audio are then combined in an iMovie HD project that can be exported to an iPod to share with others. This lesson can be applied to any science experiment. It's a great way to reinforce student learning and to share experiments with students who weren't there. For detailed instructions, visit: <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=10666>

Field Trip Tours

This project is used in conjunction with a class field trip designed to support subject content taught in class—for example, the class could visit an Asian art museum when studying China or a science museum when studying biology. On their field trip, students use an iPod with a voice recorder to capture their thoughts, reflections, and new learning on the museum and the exhibits they visit. They also take photos with a digital camera. Upon returning to school, they combine the audio and photos to create a guided tour in iMovie HD to share with others. The movie can also be exported for use on an iPod, thus making the tour even more portable. Using audio, images, and an iPod, students create a series of guided tours through a museum, creating a virtual museum for others to access. The student reflections serve as a way to allow students unable to attend the field trip to see what resources are available in the community and make connections to courses of study in the school. The tours also help teachers prepare subsequent classes for trips to the same museum. These student-created tours can even be shared with the museum itself as a community outreach project. For detailed instructions, visit: <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=10663>

Learning Math with Music

Students need to learn number facts. Many students learn these faster when they can use mnemonics, rhymes, and songs. In this lesson, students work in groups to create their own rhymes and songs for an entire family of math facts. Individual students record their math facts creations using an iPod and a voice recorder. The class will then have a complete collection of math rhymes that can be used in class or burned to a CD for students to use at home. Students love to create their own memory rhymes and songs, which allows them to personalize math facts. The portability of the iPod can help with developing these math skills by allowing students to listen repetitively to the math facts inside or outside of the classroom. For detailed instructions, visit: <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=10668>

Radio Show

The *War of the Worlds* radio show rocked the nation when it first aired. At the time, the nation's news and entertainment came over radio waves. After reading and listening to several radio dramas, student groups write a radio drama based on an event or a period in history. Students write commercials that are appropriate for the radio age and create sound effects. The radio shows are recorded using GarageBand or an iPod with a voice recorder, imported into iTunes, and then shared with the whole class. Writing and recording an original radio play allows students to demonstrate an understanding of a historical event and the genre of the radio play. The iPod is an effective tool for this process because it is portable and stores huge amounts of data. Digitally recorded plays can be rebroadcast to individuals or groups using the iPod. For detailed instructions, visit: <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=10664>

Kindergarten Animal Podcast

Kindergarten students study all kinds of animal life in science. They also are developing their language skills, particularly those students for whom English is a second language. After studying about a particular animal, students draw a picture of the animal illustrating what they've learned. Those illustrations are scanned to create a digital copy. The students then compose a few sentences to summarize what they've learned about the animal. Using a voice recorder, they take turns recording their sentences into an iPod or directly into a computer using GarageBand. The group recording is then combined in GarageBand with the scanned images, or in iMovie HD to create a movie file, so that as a particular student is narrating, his or her illustration is displayed. The project can then be shared as part of a class podcast with other kindergarten classrooms, parents, and the community.

This Document was adapted from Getting Started: A Guide for Using iPods and iTunes for Teaching and Learning which is a 41 page document that can be found at http://images.apple.com/education/products/ipod/pdf/iPod_Getting_Started_Guide.pdf