

Parent Meeting: Beginning Band or Orchestra Program

The following script outlines a successful way to demonstrate SmartMusic to parents. It has been used by teachers across the country with great results. This demonstration lasts about 5-8 minutes and will help you in illustrating the power of SmartMusic.

What you need for the demo:

- *One of your best-performing students*
- *A screen and projector*
- *A computer with a SmartMusic microphone—be sure to hook up the computer to a speaker and to the projector*

Script

I would like to tell you about a new way for your son or daughter to practice at home that will not only make their practice time more interesting and engaging, but also help them to learn more quickly. If I were to use a sports analogy, perhaps basketball or soccer, how much do you think your child would learn about the “game” if they were just dribbling and shooting by themselves and rarely interacting with the rest of the team?

Well, that’s often how music practice is structured, the student plays alone at home, and it’s only when they get to school and play with the band or orchestra that they really understand how their part fits into the whole. Let me introduce you to *(Student)* who is going to demonstrate.

(Student plays about 8 measures of a song unaccompanied—just use an excerpt from a beginning method book.)

Nice job, but is this really the best way to learn? They are there all by themselves, no context and not really very engaged. Now, let’s play this again, but this time with accompaniment.

(Student plays same song but with SmartMusic accompaniment.)

Isn’t that more interesting? Doesn’t it seem like they’re now in the “game?” SmartMusic provides a context so students know how their part fits in with the whole, and educationally speaking, it provides a rhythmic and harmonic context, which enables them to learn more quickly—and correctly—the first time. Students are no longer guessing how it goes. Now, let’s have *(Student)* play the same song, and please miss a few notes—on purpose, OK?

(Using a projector, have the student play the same song and miss a few notes.)

By the way, how many of you can read music?

Now, looking at the screen, whether you can read music or not, can you tell which notes *(Student)* missed? I'll click on one of those missed notes. See how it shows the correct fingering. Do you think that would help your child to learn more quickly? Do you think you could help your child if they asked? Probably so. Finally, let's play this song one more time, and I'm going to record it. All I do is click on "Record."

(Student plays same song and it's recorded.)

Let's play this back, just click here. *(Listen.)* First of all, do you think most students could learn better by hearing themselves? Of course they can. But, in addition, you can save a recording as well. *(Click Save.)*

Now, here's a couple of ideas.

- First, you could e-mail the recording to grandma—or anyone. How fun would it be for her to listen to her grandchild?
- Or, what value would you put on this recording if you could archive it? Save it so you could listen again years from now when your child is in high school, college, or has children of their own? Once this is saved, burn it onto a CD and you've got a family archive. So many possibilities.

All this and much more is possible if your child has SmartMusic at home. Not only would they have the method book they're using at school, but literally thousands of band/orchestra songs, popular songs, exercises to build technique, etc., all in one software program.

So SmartMusic helps make practice more productive and enjoyable, helping build students' skills faster, increasing their confidence, and enabling them to perform better.

Please join me in thanking *(Student)*.