



2015 Faculty Innovation Grant

The Music Department at Brimmer and May has a long tradition of excellence. As part of the school's mission of academic distinction in all areas of study, music continues to provide opportunities for all students to both thrive and innovate. As we move into the twenty-first century, Brimmer and May's inventive application of technology allows students to be at the forefront of technological innovation in the arts.

If awarded, this grant would serve all students in the Fourth and Fifth Grades, the entire Middle School as well as those students enrolled in the Upper School choral ensemble, Greenline. This would reach nearly two hundred students across all three divisions of the School. Furthermore, it would create a state-of-the-art music studio in Almy 82, the David Katzin Music Studio. In addition to serving as an immense resource to current students, it can also serve as a highlight for prospective students and their families.

Elizabeth Wooster, Director of Lower School Music, and I have worked together to implement a K-12 curriculum to instill the fundamentals of music theory and performance in each and every student. This encourages retention between the division and ensures that Brimmer students receive a comprehensive musical education.

GarageBand and Notion are among the most innovative and unique music applications available on the iPad. Both would be used to integrate technology into the music curriculum, as well as provide authentic performance opportunities in the classroom. GarageBand allows students to create a unique composition using a wide variety of instruments across several genres. For instance, in the Fall of 2015, the Creative Arts global curriculum focuses on the music of Asia. Through this, I am able to teach the various rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic characteristics of pieces from countries such as China, India, Japan, Indonesia, and Malaysia which subsequently allows students to incorporate these into their own compositions. This encourages students to be creative, while still highlighting what makes music of Asia unique. If implemented, students will even perform their compositions on their iPads for the Global Connections Exhibitions.

Notion takes this application one step further and allows students to bring their compositions to notated scores. This allows students to become familiar with standard music notation, while still encouraging collaboration and creativity among their classmates. These are essential musical skills for students to obtain, and will give them the skills for a lifelong understanding of a variety of musical styles.

Finally, a state-of-the-art sound system in the Katzin Music Studio will allow our facilities to remain at the forefront of technology. I often use a variety of resources from the internet to allow students to experience authentic performances from around the world. An updated sound system would allow students to have a completely immersive experience and allow for a more complex and detailed study of these unique styles of music.

Overall, the Faculty Innovation Grant would revolutionize how music is taught at Brimmer and May. In addition to creating a state-of-the-art music classroom, it would make technology an integral element of the curriculum and serve to enhance student comprehension in all learning styles. This approach to technology would be quite unique to Brimmer and May and would contribute greatly to our global focus as a school.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Frank J. Van Atta
 Director of Middle and Upper School Music

Item	Per Unit Cost	Total Cost
GarageBand iPad App	\$4.99	\$778.44
Notion iPad App	\$7.99	\$1,246.44
Sound System	\$1,569.32	\$1,569.32
TOTAL	TOTAL	\$3,594.20