

ODEM BANDS DEBUT IMAC LAB

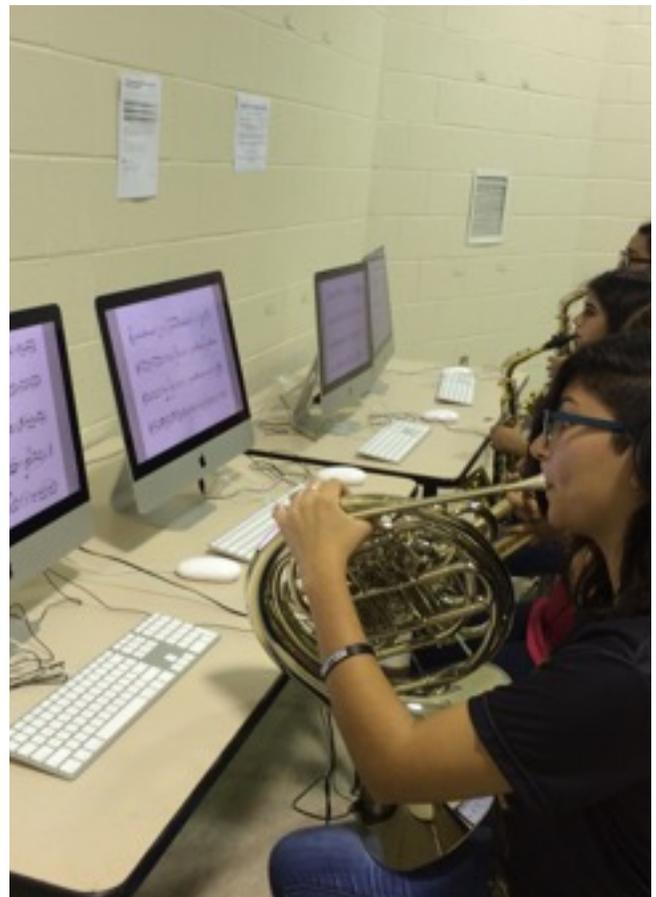


The Odem Bands Are Excited to have a new tool in their efforts to help students reach their potential as musicians. The 2015-2016 school year marks the beginning of a new set of TEKS and State Adopted Materials for music students across the State of Texas. For the Grades 6-12 the State has adopted SmartMusic as a state approved resource. We are pleased to announce that Odem-Edroy ISD was able to purchase the Odem Bands a small lab of iMacs for the purposes of using this software and other music instruction software.

Odem High School Band students work with SmartMusic™, a software that allows students to practice and assess their progress.

SmartMusic™ in particular has been seen as one of the most innovative tools for teaching music that has arrived in the last couple decades. Through the use of a microphone the software is able to record students performance, evaluate the correct performance for right or wrong notes/rhythms, and even scores the students performance with a percentage at the top. The correct notes that students play are then highlighted in green and wrong notes are highlighted in red. With most of the library of songs available in the software students actually practice with the real band playing alongside them. This makes practicing much more enjoyable and allows students to learn where their parts fit within the full band. Fingerings that students may not know are displayed when the students click on the notes, and the software will play their parts with them to help them learn.

SmartMusic™ also lets students slow down the music and loop smaller sections of music to help learn more challenging sections of the music.



At present the Beginning Band Book is fully in the software. About half of the pieces that the middle school and high school bands are preparing are available within the software as well. We have purchased 6 ‘Practice Room’ subscriptions that students may use on these iMacs. Additionally students can purchase personal subscriptions on an annual basis for home from www.smartmusic.com for \$40/year.

SmartMusic™ works on Mac OSX, Windows, and iPad from the App Store. Most computer microphones will work with SmartMusic, but their specialized mics do work better in most cases. Those are an additional \$20-\$30/ microphone depending on which one is purchased.

SmartMusic™ uses a microphone to listen to the students performance and plays the music in real time on the screen in front of them. It works with all woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments!



Additionally we are excited by the possibility of other software available on the iMacs. Software such as GarageBand and Finale 2014 will also be available for the students to use. The full suite of iWork apps is also available should students wish to work on other programs. Students that wish to use the computers in the band hall may sign in and use them before school, during lunch, or after school. Additionally we will use the computers in class as part of instruction. We are truly excited to have the ability to have technology with our program!