

# Music Ace in the San Lorenzo Schools

## From the Lab, to the Laptop, to the Home

by Anita Cooley, Music Department Chair

As head of all the music programs in the San Lorenzo school district in San Lorenzo, California, you can imagine the challenges I face in trying to create a standardized music education curriculum that works for students in kindergarten as well as those in high school.

The San Lorenzo district has 15 separate educational facilities, serving approximately 7,500 students. We have nine elementary schools with enrollment of more than 4,000 students.



After evaluating the available options, I recommended that the San Lorenzo School District adopt the Music Ace Series. Music Ace provided a solid music curriculum, while at the same time making it possible for us to use the same education software, Music Ace, from the intermediate grades into high school.

We find that Music Ace helps develop and reinforce music fundamentals such as standard notation, rhythm, melody, key signatures, harmony, and intervals. Maestro Max is a very engaging cyber-instructor who does a great job of introducing music fundamentals and theory through lessons that are some of the most interactive and compelling I've seen for just about any subject, not just music.

In the San Lorenzo school system, we have been fortunate to receive a number of grants that have allowed us to provide our students with personal laptop computers. We have installed Music Ace on more than 600 student laptops. The design of Music Ace lets us create a seamless learning environment for music in the classroom, allowing us to take full advantage of the laptops.

In addition to the student laptops, we currently use Music Ace in an elementary school music lab, and we anticipate additional deployment of Music Ace lab configurations, as more lab resources become available.

Because of the depth of the Music Ace curriculum and the built-in progress assessment features, we are able fill gaps in our music education programs with a sequential curriculum and progress metrics. Music Ace provides a consistent foundation of music education that all our instructors, full-time and part-time, can build upon. All students using the Music Ace program are assured of receiving the same foundation of instruction and of having their progress measured regularly.

The progress assessment tools and applicability of Music Ace for numerous experience levels and age levels are very attractive to our music program. In addition, the game-like qualities of Music Ace have made it very popular with all levels of our students. The games at the end of each lesson not only provide an easy-to-decipher progress report, but also make the learning process more complete and enjoyable for the students. Once you get to lesson seven, it has become a very serious, yet still enjoyable, game.

We have found Music Ace to be extremely easy to install and use in the lab and laptop environment. We feel very comfortable in highly recommending Music Ace, not only because of its high-quality curriculum and appeal to students, but because it meets the educational requirements of nearly all of our beginning to

intermediate music students.

