Garageband Certification Proposal

Garageband is an extremely versatile musical tool that can serve as an excellent entry point for students to start exploring music production and editing. Garageband is accessible for many sites, as it is pre-installed on Mac computers, and it can be downloaded for a low cost on iOS devices. The standard I am proposing includes the recording studio equipment (Specific to Arlington Hills Createch) as well as file management. Garageband and the recording studio are important to my site because the community has many aspiring musicians and artists that express interest in using the recording studio to create music. We have an excellent studio space that is underutilized due to limitations on staffing and overall staff knowledge of the equipment. As a capacity building project, I learned how to use the recording equipment as well as carved out some time each week where teens can know that someone will be there to supervise studio time. Students will be able to block out 1 hour sessions on Monday night when they can come in and use the studio.

As previously mentioned, this project will revolve heavily around Garageband and recording studio equipment. On the recording studio equipment side, students will learn how to use the mac, the Scarlett equipment board, microphones, the midi controller (keyboard), as well as how to work with physical inputs such as electric guitars and basses. On the Garageband side, students will learn terminology such as “project” and “track”, how to create their own project, how to use different track inputs, how to record a track, how to modify recorded tracks (cut/copy/paste, speed up/slow down), and how to import previously recorded track (from another artist, to make a remix). I will help students connect to various tutorials, including a really awesome Lynda tutorial that teens have access to with their library cards/Library Go accounts.

Another important aspect of this project that I would like to include is file management as well as exploring Creative Commons to make sure that the music made does not violate any copyright laws. The file management aspect has many applications in our digital world. Students will learn the difference between MP3 and WAV files (two important file types in music production) as well as places where they can store and save their files to work on later (Flash drive vs hard drive vs cloud). I will also help students find ways to publish their work online if interested.

Teaching students about Creative Commons is a vital aspect of this project. Whether or not music is created in accordance with Creative Commons and various copyright laws has an enormous impact on whether or not music can be distributed. This knowledge is important as many free beat download websites incorporate Creative Commons licensing in their websites. In helping students explore Creative Commons, I hope that students learn what each CC symbol stands for and what it means about their freedom to use that content. While we cannot completely ensure that teens will create music in accordance with Creative Commons and copyright laws, it is essential that they are aware of this information

A finished product for this project will be a song that contains two or more instrument/vocal tracks. In addition to a finished song, the student must also demonstrate Garageband and studio mastery based on the rubric I have created. A score of 20 out of 25 points will earn the student a Garageband certification. The end goal of this project is for students to be able to create music that meets all legal and technical requirements for the distribution method of their choice and to demonstrate mastery of Garageband and the studio to the point where only minimal assistance would be needed. Ideally, I would like to teach students some music theory and composition to make their music more complete, but that is beyond the scope of what I can teach. Createch should be getting more music production mentors who can teach theory and composition, and my goal is to help students prepare for that by giving them the technology skills that they need to create music.

This certification can also apply to similar music recording software, such as Protools.

Another vital portion of this project is tying the skills that teens are learning to Northstar assessments. The Garageband Standard specifically incorporates skills related to the Basic Computer, Internet Basics, and Mac OS Northstar standards. The related skills are outlined below:

Basic Computer:

3. Demonstrate knowledge of keys on keyboard (Enter, Shift, Control, Backspace, Delete, Arrow

Keys, Tab, Caps Lock, Number Lock)

8. Drag and drop

Internet Basics:

3. Demonstrate familiarity with website structure

13. Ability to scroll up and down and left and right

15. Identify and work with tabs and windows.

Mac OS:

1.Identify the operating system used by a computer.

4. Use Finder or Spotlight to locate files and folders.  
7. Move documents and files, and create new folders.

8. Delete files and apps, and recover them from the Trash.

9. Identify peripheral devices on a computer (flash drives, camera, etc.) and cloud storage options (e.g. iCloud).

Evaluation Rubric Learner:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Advanced – 5pts | Proficient – 4pts | Progressing - 3pts |
| Completeness | Student completes a song that contains 3+ different tracks. Student is able to export their song with minimal assistance | Student completes a song that is 3 minutes long and contains 2 different tracks. Demonstrates understanding of song exportation but may require assistance | Student does not complete a song and/or the song does not contain 2 different tracks. Does not know how to export their song. |
| Studio Equipment | Student shows advanced knowledge of studio equipment, understanding of what each component does, and is able to perform basic troubleshooting | Student shows knowledge of some of the studio equipment, but still requires some assistance. Student shows beginning troubleshooting skills. | Student still requires large amount of assistance when using studio equipment. Student does not show troubleshooting skills. |
| Originality | Student creates a song that is original and shows knowledge of Creative Commons licensing and/or knows how to find said information. | Student creates a song that is original and shows beginning knowledge of Creative Commons and copyright in music. | Student does not create an original song and/or does not show interest in following Creative Commons licensing. |
| GarageBand Tools | Student demonstrates mastery of Garageband, understanding how to create tracks, use midi controllers/microphones, and physical instruments. Student also understands basic editing controls and can utilize them to edit their project. | Student demonstrates Garageband proficiency, and has a growing understanding of how to create tracks, use midi controllers/microphones, and physical instruments. Student has a developing understanding of editing controls but may need assistance editing their project. | Student does not demonstrate Garageband proficiency and needs large amount of staff assistance when using Garageband. Student is not able to edit their project without staff assistance. |
| Northstar Skills | Student shows mastery of the vast majority of outlined Northstar skills related to Basic Computer, Internet Basics, and Mac OS. | Student shows understanding of many outlined Northstar skills related to Basic Computer, Internet Basics, and Mac OS. | Student does not show understanding of outlined Northstar skills related to Basic Computer, Internet Basics, and Mac OS. |

Score out of 25 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (A score of 20 is passing)

Comments: