

# SongWorks in Non-Traditional Intermediate Elementary Classes

SongWorks Principles that guided this transformation:

- SW 1 Principle 7: Quality of life is enriched through music and singing.
- SW 2 Principle 6: Song provides direct involvement for making music and studying sound relationships.

What I learned:

- My older students were more inclined to sing when I took the pressure off and didn't require them to sing.
- Asking students to come up with solutions when games or activities "didn't work" for our class sizes helped them take ownership.
- I could still implement project based learning, and use music technology with even better success and more fun by starting with a foundation of SongWorks inspired musical experiences!
- SongWorks WORKS- even in the situations when it seems like it might not!

How I outlined my "Personal Project" unit

- Start with a foundation of lots of SongWorks sturdy songs and activities!
- Using the songs you chose, introduce the basics for each potential "station". I taught: ukulele, piano, hand clapping games, jump rope songs, music mapping, looper pedal, and musician biographies.
- Give students free exploration time to use any/all of the stations in a musical way.
- Instruct students to choose a station they would like to continue working with and set a goal for what they would like to accomplish.
- Model a few example "project pitches" to demonstrate what they might do.
  - I suggested things like:
    - Learn to play "Green Grows the Willow Tree" with both hands on the piano and perform it for the class
    - Create a hand clapping pattern to play with "Darby Town" and teach it to the class.
    - Create a book of music maps and lyrics for Rabbit Run, Sandgate, Three Blind Mice and Three Pirates.
- Find and/or create support materials for students as needed. I made packets breaking down piano scores and fill in the blank chord sheets for ukuleles.
- Support students with their projects, be flexible with their changes, and allow them to take ownership of their own musical ideas and goals!

Sources:

Bennett P. D. & Bartholomew, D. R. (1997). *SongWorks I: Singing in the Education of Children*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Bennett P. D. & Bartholomew, D. R. (1999 & 2014). *SongWorks 2: Singing from sound to symbol*. Bozeman, MT: SongWorks Press.