

SESSION #10

USING ACADEMIC SONGS IN THE
CLASSROOM - TADA!



PRESENTER:
CHERYL BOMBENGER

TRANSCRIPT

Hello! Welcome to Using Academic Songs in the Classroom session. My name is Cheryl Bombenger, and I'm excited to be here at the Arts Integration and Steam Conference. Our session will talk about academic songs and how useful and how necessary they are to use in a classroom to teach academics.

There are so many questions that people have when they're starting a new concept in their classroom, and as you should be. You should be asking what is the research behind them. Academic songs have a lot of research behind them to tell the importance of music and how important music is in your classroom.

Well, what is an academic song? An academic song is something that you can use to improve your academics. Now, there's many reasons and there's many ways that you would use an academic song. For example, you might have a chant. You might have a rap. You might have a jingle. You might have a poem. You might have a ballad. Sometimes those poems you have can easily be turned into an academic song.

Math, for example, is an area that I have short, short songs. So, if I am teaching place value, I would ones, tens, and hundreds, ones, tens, and hundreds, ones, tens, and hundreds, and the comma says thousands. So then I would teaching right along with it when I'm teaching that song.

A science song, for example, has a topic that might have an extreme amount of facts that I want to get through. So I might have a ballad, something that involves empathy, something that children will get involved with. An area that invokes empathy might be something like on the dirty 30s or on the oil spill, different things like that, you can put in the aspect of sadness to it and play on the children's empathy. Children always want to learn more about these when their emotions are involved with this whole situation.

So why would you teach using academic songs? Well, first of all, students need music in their classroom. They need that rhythm. They need the relaxation of the songs that go with it. I use academic songs for a variety of different reasons. Number one: to help them learn the concept. In addition to that, I also use academic songs for transitions. Transitions come much easier when I have a way for them to call them to the carpet using the song or to get them to line up.

SESSION #10

USING ACADEMIC SONGS IN THE
CLASSROOM - TADA!



PRESENTER:
CHERYL BOMBENGER

TRANSCRIPT

For example, I might say, "Are you ready? Are you ready? Are you ready to learn?" And they would reply with "Learn, learn, learn, we are ready to learn." That gives them the idea that it's time to come to the carpet, to move from their seat, and to come.

Sometimes with the songs that I teach, I also make sure that I allow them to use these songs for different things. They can use the songs when they're working on their own. All the songs are provided to them on a Google Slideshow, so that they can see the songs again. They can use those songs for reading, and they can use those songs for reading. We might, for example, be talking about our state, and there's all types of facts in our state, here in the United States, that I want them to learn. So they would go to that song, and they would pull out those facts in that state in the song about the state.

In addition to that, I also post several different videos from YouTube that have to do with the song. So, for example, if I'm teaching the oceans, I would have a variety of different videos on the oceans that go with that song.

Let's listen to William and Paige as they talk about academic songs in our classroom.

Paige:

Academic songs can help our grade learn and grow.

William:

It's true. Paige showed me two songs, and they really helped me learn. One of them is "Casper County." Can we sing it, Paige?

Paige:

Sure.

Paige:

[singing 00:04:30]

Paige:

We also have another song called "Sixes." Can we sing it, William?

William:

SESSION #10

USING ACADEMIC SONGS IN THE
CLASSROOM - TADA!



TRANSCRIPT

PRESENTER:
CHERYL BOMBENGER

Okay, let's do it.

William:

[singing 00:04:49]

William:

As you can see, academic songs can help us learn in so many different ways.

They did a great job teaching you a little bit where we live, and we use our songs for social studies as well as math. We have counting by songs in all the different areas, and the counting by is a great, great tool for us to help to learn more about our math and so they can use for multiplication purposes.

Now, there's so many benefits of academic songs. As I said earlier, we want to grow our knowledge, and we want to retain that knowledge. That recall is so much greater in the years to come. I still have students that come back to me in their high school and their college years, and they'll say, "We still sing your songs, Mrs. B. We still sing your songs." So that recall has been very important to them.

We also know that music is a universal language, so that it helps students that have come from all different places that are speaking different languages and that it helps them to just learn right along with us. It's also used as a calming or an energizing tool as well. As I told you earlier, we use it for our writing because children are able to pick out the details in the song. We know that the social/emotional aspect is very important, so we use it to reduce our stress. It also helps a teacher to reduce their stress as well.

We also want to get the neurons firing within the children's brains, and it's really important to energize them and to get excited about learning, so academic songs are really a necessary tool for that.

Project-based learning is something that I feel that is very strong, and using these songs so that children can go off on their own and find different topics that they want to learn about on their own is important and sometimes the driving force behind it is an academic song.

SESSION #10

USING ACADEMIC SONGS IN THE
CLASSROOM - TADA!



PRESENTER:
CHERYL BOMBENGER

TRANSCRIPT

I do play guitar. I don't play guitar well, and I kind of just putz with it. But many of these songs I've done with the guitar, and they can be done without the guitar as well. Let's take a peek at one of the songs that we sing in our class.

As you can see, that was a science song, so ecosystems are very important to our grade level and our standards that we have in third grade. There's all kinds of songs about habitats and oceans and just general science songs that we can sing.

There's also different types of songs that we sing in the morning to welcome the children to school. As I told you earlier, we use the "Are you ready? Are you ready? Are you ready to learn?" That one is for transitions. We can also change the words with that song and go "Are you ready? Are you ready? Are you ready to grow? Grow, grow, grow, we are ready to grow." And I use that one for our growth mindset.

The one I was talking to you about, our good morning song is we sing just a little bit in different languages to get them the idea that it's just not English. There's thousands of languages out there for us to adventure and to check out, so this one goes ...

[singing 00:09:35]

On Fridays, we sing a song to send them off, so that they'll be happy on their way as they go home, and that one goes ...

[singing 00:09:56]

And that's an exciting song. I do have that on the handout that you'll find later on. Again, that one can be done with guitar or without guitar, as many of these songs can be.

As I told you earlier, our math is mainly made out of jingles. Again, those are songs that I use right when I'm at the easel, and I'm teaching about place value or fractions or rounding or expanding. All the different areas of math are just really short songs that I integrate right into the lesson.

Science and engineering songs, depending on what the topic is, depends on its length. The science songs, as you can see on the ecosystems, was a little bit longer.

SESSION #10

USING ACADEMIC SONGS IN THE
CLASSROOM - TADA!



TRANSCRIPT

PRESENTER:
CHERYL BOMBENGER

Our engineering songs might be something like teaching the engineering process, so it might be ...

[singing 00:10:48]

So it goes on from there.

Our history, our geography, our biography songs are some of our students' favorites. Our history songs might be anything from again the dirty 30s or it might be something on George Washington. Our geography songs are songs that our students absolutely love. They learn about the world around them, and they have fun with them. We have songs that teach the countries in Central America, South America, that they really find enjoyment with. For example, our Central America song, we learn that there's 23 countries in North America and Central America are part of them. And then we use a pneumonic right within the song, which goes ...

[singing 00:11:47]

So that's our Central America song.

In addition, our social/emotional songs can be anything from songs about yet, that I haven't learned the concept of what is being taught, but tomorrow might be a better time to learn it. It might be calming songs like ...

[singing 00:12:27]

So, when they come to the carpet, we talk about how you breathe and how it's a choice. It's actually thinking through calming our bodies and calming our brain.

Agriculture is another area that I'm very passionate about. I love to teach about sustaining life and what we need to do and how the farmers of the world help our people by feeding the world. So I have many, many songs about agriculture that you might find interesting as well.

SESSION #10

USING ACADEMIC SONGS IN THE
CLASSROOM - TADA!



PRESENTER:
CHERYL BOMBENGER

TRANSCRIPT

Our songs about the world in general are really fun for the students, and these songs are anything from the planets, the continents, the oceans, the great lakes. Here's just a little bit. I'm going to start it in the middle, the song for you. Sorry about that.

[singing 00:13:54]

And that song helps them to learn about the countries in Europe.

Again, there's science songs, there's project-based learning songs, there's social/emotional learning songs. There's all different types of songs for your students to learn.

We have all types of areas in the science area, all kinds of songs that help them to learn each and every concept so that they'll get excited about science, and they'll want to learn more each and every day and become the scientists of the future.

As our day progresses, we sing a song right on the YouTube channel, and that's ...

[singing 00:14:51]

Thank you for joining us at Using Academic Songs in the Classroom. I hope that you too will be able to find songs that you can add to your classroom.