

## Every Student Needs an mp3 Player in Class

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I don't know about you, but I've noticed an increase use in mp3 players in the hallways this year. Some of the more advanced players can hold up to 15,000 songs. The mp3 player is becoming part of a fashion trend that compliments the music culture they live in. How long does it take a student to rip, download and manage 15,000 songs? Students spend hours organizing music files on their computer before they synchronize with their mp3 player on the way out the door. File management has taken on a whole new meaning when you need to find that 'one song' to prepare you for the day. For me, it's a playlist that fits my mood; whether it's a sample of Christian music, 80s tunes or fast tempo hockey music, all are one click away on a 3.6 ounce mp3 player built by Apple called the iPod™.



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Do you allow mp3 players into your classroom?

No?

Why not?

Explore the educational power hidden in Apple's latest iPod™ Photo edition:

### 1. *Audiobooks*

Later this week, Apple is launching their online music store in Canada, offering over 8,000 audiobooks available for quick and easy download directly to the student's iPod™. The iPod™ player remembers where you left off, picking up at the same location next time you revisit the novel study in class. Often, it's that initial connection a teacher tries to make in order to motivate a student to read. Do you think your students would find this digital experience engaging? In fact, pick up another language by downloading Italian, German or French files for easy access before your next school mission trip.

### 2. *Photo Database*

The latest edition of the iPod™ can hold a maximum of 25,000 pictures on its 60GB hard drive. Take the iPod™ along on your next field trip, connect a digital camera and transfer your photo collection off the camera flash card for future analysis; on the 2 inch color 220X176 liquid crystal iPod™ display, or project through a television via S-Video, or share the slideshow on the classroom projector via composite video, while playing a music track in the background through a stereo connection. Think of the possibilities! Students are now collecting, organizing and sharing digital pictures of their learning experience. Whether it's photos of tree leaves, microscope slides, textbook diagrams, architectural designs, titration indicator changes, zoo slides, mission trip moments, or slideshows of school worships and concerts, the applications are endless.

### ***3. Voice Recorder***

Turn your iPod<sub>TM</sub> into a voice recorder with an accessory made by Griffin, challenging students to rehearse their presentations, summarize notes, or take the lesson home for review later that night. Ask students to rehearse the steps involved in math, reinforcing the sequence required to solve those large trigonometry or transformation questions. Record your favorite bible scripture for the day or leave a warm and fuzzy compliment for a friend in your class.

### ***4. Calendar***

Take your digital calendar and address book with you everywhere you go. Test and assignment schedules can be downloaded to each iPod<sub>TM</sub> at the beginning of a course. Students can be prompted to make important meetings and deadlines with the alarm feature. Mark important events on the calendar and set the iPod<sub>TM</sub> to remind students the day before.

### ***5. Firewire Hard Drive***

Imagine a digitized course review folder made up of interactive PowerPoints, comprehensive diagrams, old government exam pdfs, and a complete library of Access TV videos? How much hard drive space would a folder of this magnitude occupy? The last one I designed for my grade 12 class was too big to fit on a CD, email home or squeeze on to a USB thumb drive. The iPod<sub>TM</sub> operates as an external hard drive when connected to any computer. Simply plug the iPod<sub>TM</sub> into your computer via firewire and transfer your files at a blistering 400MBps. How long will it be before Apple builds an iPod<sub>TM</sub> Movie edition? Not sure where to find those educational videos to enhance your lesson? Check out <http://www.UnitedStreaming.com> for a complete K-12 library of Access TV QuickTime videos.

Combined with Apple's iTunes<sub>TM</sub> software, a teacher can manage the student's iPod<sub>TM</sub> file list, ensuring maximum productivity while used in class activities. Still worried about students using the iPod<sub>TM</sub> tool for listening to music instead of reading their book or studying their cell diagrams? Check out the FM Transmitter accessory made by Griffin, which turns the iPod<sub>TM</sub> into a radio station. Set each student to a different frequency, and tune in to each iPod<sub>TM</sub> from your desk as a random check. Take it one more step by connecting an IR remote control to operate a student's iPod<sub>TM</sub> from across the room.

Contact your local Apple Education representative for more information. Keep parents informed before they hit the malls these holidays. For a reasonable price, students can now manage their entire course from a piece of technology no larger than a deck of cards. Oh, by the way, I think all teachers should have access to the same technology in advance to uncover the real educational value of an iPod<sub>TM</sub>. Once an mp3 player, now a handheld tool every student could use to best organize their studies.

### **Resources:**

Apple - <http://www.apple.ca/store>

Griffin - <http://www.griffintechnology.com/products/>