Moosiko

A Modern Way to Learn How to Play Guitar in the 21st Century

Challenge: A music teacher had only two weeks to come up with a way to turn in-person lessons into online lessons.

Solution: Moosiko, an adaptive guitar-learning platform, lets students learn independently—wherever they are.

About Kerman High School

Kerman High School is a 1,600-student school in Kerman Unified School District in California.

- ✓ **5,200 STUDENTS**
- ✓ **7 SCHOOLS**
- ✓ **100 GUITAR STUDENTS**

Two weeks before the 2020-21 school year started, Steve Nance learned that he would be teaching in an online format. "We had been preparing for in-person, so it was quite a last-minute scramble," says Nance, band director for Kerman High School.

Nance, who handles the school's marching band, jazz band, mariachi band, and guitar program, was prepping for his guitar classes by putting lessons into Google Classroom when a friend shared a link for Moosiko. He checked it out and shared it with his principal, who was very open to Nance's trying it out. "He said, 'This is the year to think out of the box,'" says Nance.

Intrigued that Moosiko helps students learn guitar by playing songs, Nance was eager to get started. "I'm a guitar player myself. If you want to build your technique, you have to learn a lot of chords." He was equally impressed by the platform's focus on chord orientation. "Eighty-five percent of your job in a band is playing rhythm. You have to learn harmonies and chords."

Teachers Deliver Different Types of Lessons

For anyone who is not an online teacher—aka most of the K-12 teachers in the U.S.—Moosiko is a lifesaver. Nance set up a Google Classroom with a Resources section to which he adds YouTube videos he finds or creates himself, and Moosiko fits in perfectly. "Students use the videos to learn skills such as tuning their guitar or how to flat pick," he says. "Moosiko teaches them how to work at their own pace."

In addition, Nance's students are at different levels, ranging from total beginners to pros, and Moosiko accommodates all of them. "Stronger players who had basic chords could find songs to practice the bar chords they needed; beginners could play Happy Birthday and other beginner songs to learn basic chords. It's easy to guide students to the appropriate songs, and the students are excited to learn them."

"Moosiko lets students learn how they should learn: step by step, repeating things over and over and over until they get them."
—Steve Nance, director of bands at
Kerman High School in Kerman, California

As soon as a student completes a song, he or she gets suggestions for other songs, which is even more important with students learning remotely. Even better, a student can show the chords he or she has learned and receive songs that add one more chord to continue the learning. "Moosiko lets students learn how they should learn: step by step, repeating things over and over and over until they get them."

The Importance of Diversity
Moosiko has more than 250 songs that span several decades and genres, and the platform continually adds new songs. "We're an agricultural community that's about 84 percent Hispanic and a lot of my student's parents are field workers. They love some of the more ethnic songs and have requested new songs. I love that they feel represented," says Nance.

An Evolving Program

Based on student interest, Kerman High School started a mariachi program a few years ago. Moosiko has also introduced new features based on student suggestions. For instance, the platform added recording capability at the end of 2020. Nance has asked for famous guitar riffs and for some more performance-based songs.

For now, Kerman students love working on Moosiko at home and will continue to use the platform once the COVID-19 pandemic ends and they are back in the classroom. In fact, the high school liked it so much that the district middle school is now using it.

"When you take guitar, someone will inevitably ask you to play them a song," says Nance. "Typically, the way we teach music doesn't allow for students to do that. Now, thanks to Moosiko, they can."

Price per year for Moosiko:

$15/student: 0-99 students
$13.50/student: 100-199 students
$12/student: 200+ students

Moosiko, the #1 platform for in-person, remote, and hybrid guitar classes, combines adaptive-learning technologies, design, and audio engineering to deliver a modern approach to learning guitar. With more than 250 songs from various decades and genres, Moosiko provides a personalized learning path for students while giving teachers quick and easy assessment capabilities to track student skills and progress. Find out more at moosiko.com.

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www.moosiko.com • 415-828-4215 • 7 Dalton Parkway, Salem, MA 01970