

acg:

austin
classical
guitar



2023-24 Season: Presence





OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

What We've Built

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

We've built programs in every Austin ISD school and partner with teachers in 45 Texas school districts and 40 states. In Austin ISD, guitar now has more students enrolled than orchestra or choir.



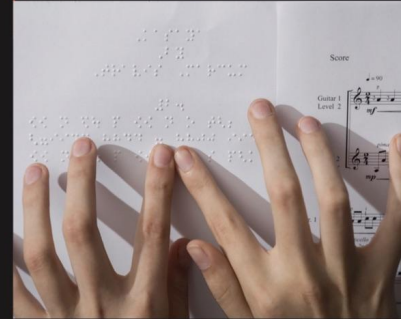
JUVENILE JUSTICE

We created Texas' first and only daily, for-credit performing arts courses for incarcerated youth. Started in 2010, we now teach guitar every school day in five lock-down facilities between Austin and Dallas.



BRILLE LEARNING

We installed and funded Texas School for the Blind's first guitar instructor in 2010 and subsequently developed the world's first braille-based learning system for guitar, now used around the globe.



OUR CURRICULUM

Launched in 2008, GuitarCurriculum is a groundbreaking approach to classroom guitar instruction. An extensive teacher resource, it provides the foundation for all our programs and the platform for our scalability.



TEACHER TRAINING

Since 2009 ACG has trained hundreds of teachers across the US and beyond, with special concentrations in Austin, Houston, El Paso, Atlanta, Cleveland, St. Louis and Columbia, South Carolina.



LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

Developing an entirely new course subject requires advocacy and deep structural support to promote growth and advance best practices. Since 2014, ACG has created and disseminated procedures for conducting district- and region-wide assessment events for large guitar ensembles, establishing standards for performance and helping programs across the state foster a culture of excellence.





THE CHALLENGE

Teens are struggling with isolation and depression.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention between 2011 and 2021 the rate at which teens 'experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness' rose from an average of 28% to 43%.

In a May 2023 Health advisory the US Surgeon General warns of loneliness epidemic with findings including, "Lacking social connection can increase the risk for premature death as much as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day."

In a June 2023 review of 43 research papers, the US National Institutes of Health concluded that social media use contributes to depression, anxiety, poor sleep, low self-esteem, and social and appearance anxiety.

THE RESEARCH

Music Can help.

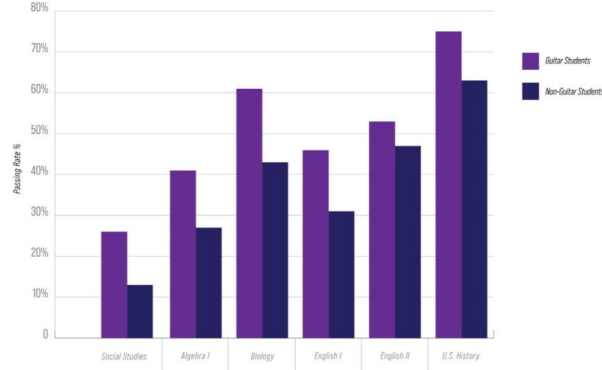
A 2009 study by the University of Texas School of Social Work found that ACG's guitar education programs in schools positively impacted students' self-esteem, sense of belonging, self-confidence, and willingness to make and learn from their own mistakes.

According to the 2023 State of the Arts Report by Texas Cultural Trust, "Texas high school students enrolled in more arts courses had better attendance, higher pass rates on standardized tests, and were more likely to attend college than their peers taking only the minimum arts requirement." Arts-engaged students were:

- Up to 112% and more likely to earn an exceptional score on standardized tests.
- 20% more likely to attend college.
- 42% more likely to attend a four-year college university.

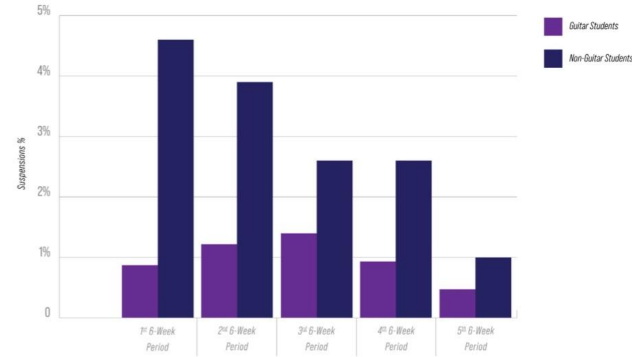
2023 STAAR TEST RESULTS IN AUSTIN ISD*

*District data from 21 campuses, about 1,700 guitar students, compared with non-guitarist peers matched by campus and demographic.

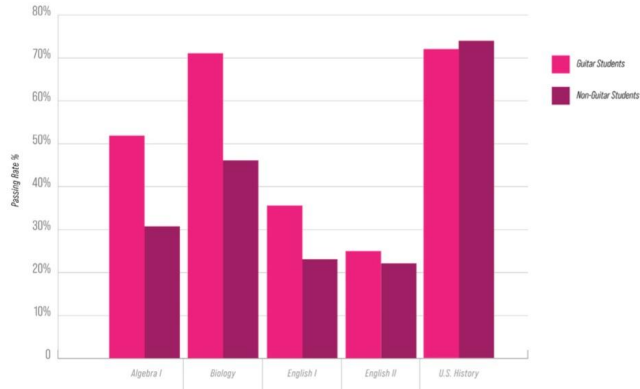


23-24 BEHAVIORAL REFERRALS IN AUSTIN ISD*

*District data from 21 campuses, about 1,700 guitar students, compared with non-guitarist peers matched by campus and demographic.



JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER LONGITUDINAL STUDY, 2013-2018



"I can't say enough about how much the addition of music influences the lives of our incarcerated youth. Every student in Guitar starts out reluctant, afraid of failure, afraid of trying, and the ACG teachers coax them out of their protective shell, note by note, until they're performing in front of crowds. It's an amazing sight to see their faces when they look up and take in the effect they've had on those in attendance. Almost all choose to continue their guitar studies after they leave Gardner Betts, and ACG makes sure whatever school they're enrolling in next is prepared to receive them with open arms. They're hooked on music! And they've accomplished something they didn't imagine they could."

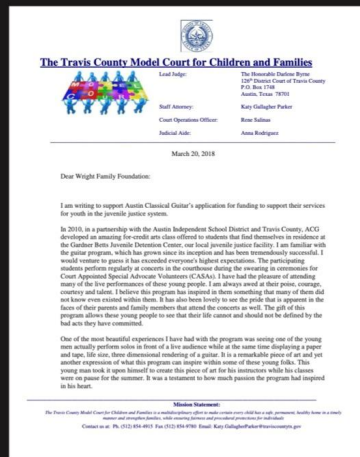
— Kim Andersen, Counselor, Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center

OUR IMPACT



"Guitar is now the second largest music program in Austin ISD high school and middle school campuses... partnership between AISD and Austin Classical Guitar has closed the access gap for our most marginalized students and teachers."

– Phillip Taylor, AISD Director of Fine Arts



"As a judge, I routinely see young people in my courtroom whose lives have suffered by the effects of abuse and neglect, poverty, mental illness, and addiction. These youth often develop a hard exterior and are not easily reached by individuals in the community who want to engage them in positive programming. Austin Classical Guitar has had a remarkable impact on the students they work with, using a beautiful art form to crack through the hard exterior of some of our community's toughest young people and inspiring in them a sense of beauty, passion, and self-respect."

– Darlene Byrne, Judge, 126th District Court



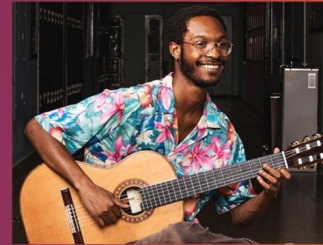
"Our boys here at Garcia are...facing systemic issues such as poverty and homelessness...Austin Classical Guitar has been a profound influence and force here in our classroom."

– Lauren Gordon, Gus Garcia Middle School

CASE STUDIES IN IMPACT



Susana Diaz-Lopez (with students) / ACG Alum and current AISD Teacher (Akins High School)



Justice Phillips
ACG Alum and current Patron Services & Box Office Manager



Francisco de la Rosa
ACG Alum and current Teaching Artist



Angelica Campbell
ACG Alum and current Communications Director

CASE STUDIES IN INSPIRATION



Students in a Kathmandu orphanage playing guitar in our partner program.



Since 2011, ACG has spent nearly every summer training teachers in St. Louis.



Each year holds dozens of inspiring student opportunities, like HOME: The Elements (2023).



Robert Rodriguez donated his SPY KIDS music and made a music video with sixteen ACG students.



Thank You!

THE FIVE ELEMENTS

DEEP PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE

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graph LR; A((DEEP PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE)) --- B(1. BELONGING); A --- C(2. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY); A --- D(3. PERSEVERANCE); A --- E(4. PERFORMANCE); A --- F(5. CELEBRATION);
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1.

BELONGING

Sense of Safety/Belonging/Room for Mistakes

2.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sense of Individual Importance/Personal Responsibility

3.

PERSEVERANCE

Adversity/Perseverance/Little Victories

4.

PERFORMANCE

Performance/Success

5.

CELEBRATION

Acknowledgement/Celebration