

Music can help teachers grade papers faster

Music. It can dictate our emotions and influence our mood. Some use music's powers when working out, while others treat it like a metronome, helping them fall asleep.



JACK OLSTAD
Features Editor

Whatever the reason, music helps lots of people accomplish tasks in their everyday lives.

Even though it's filled with excitement, homework isn't done in silence by many members of the student body. Righteous riffs from David Gilmour can numb rigorous hours of writing a research paper about fungus and its characteristics. This secret ingredient comes in multiple

flavors to fit any situation. Mozart for crafting an English essay or upbeat Sublime for knocking out algebra problems. But it's not only students who use music's inspiration to get stuff done; some of the St. Joe staff is among the admirers.

"Peaceful music helps me keep entertained and grade more effectively," Mr. Brad Biard said. "Sitting there without some sort of ambiance is boring; it relaxes me."

The sounds of Passenger, Damien Rice, and the Civil Wars play in the background to soothe the young soccer coach while he's busy at work.

Go two doors down the hall and you'll hear just the opposite: melody with revved up tempo plays along aside English teacher Mrs. Rachel Hill while she finds comma splices and dangling modifiers.

"If I listen to faster music, I focus

“ I’m not a very good multi-tasker. No music helps me get into the right mindset I need to grade.”

**– Tyler O’Hara,
an English teacher at
St. Joe**

more when I’m grading,” Mrs. Hill said. “Without music, I take a lot longer to get through a stack of essays.”

These teachers hit play, sit back, and get in the zone, grading work like nobody’s business. Whether it’s tranquil or loud, music gives them the perfect state of mind.

After all, these teachers are the people who have been deemed worthy to put a grade on students’ work. They decide wherever students get an A or a B, pass or fail. What happens when they’re in a bad mood? They find a dent on their car and students’ grades become victims from the onslaught. Grade rage is just as serious as road rage, and other teachers have found their own cure to this major epidemic.

“What really gets me pumped while grading stuff are songs that my band works,” said St. Joe’s Latin professor Matt Hosler. Without some sort of musical accompaniment like his band’s rendition of “Supersonic” by Oasis, Hosler is missing that spark of motivation to get on his work grind. “Songs that get me pumped make me get pumped to grade, too.”

Besides music, Hosler also listens to podcasts and even turns on his TV to

have “Star Wars: The Clone Wars” as backdrop to his grading environment at home.

If it’s not music, a few teachers have found other modes of inspiration while critiquing students’ work. Mr. Tyler O’Hara can’t have music while he’s grading; never have and not going to try anytime soon.

“I’m not a very good multi-tasker,” O’Hara admitted. “No music helps me get into a right mindset I need to grade.”

If anything has to be in the background, O’Hara finds an episode from one of his favorite shows “Seinfeld.”

“When an episode of Seinfeld is on, I know it’s funny, so it won’t distract me.”

So before you hand in your next lab report, make sure your teacher isn’t under the influence of a bad mood or bad music.