



White Papers

Harmony in Education: Outdoor Classrooms With Music Enrichment

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Nature Meets Learning

Every day, educators strive to spark curiosity, build resilience, and foster growth. Yet the constraints of a traditional classroom can make it difficult to meet these needs in ways that deepen engagement.

Research shows that outdoor learning is a powerful way to enhance academic achievement, support physical well-being, and strengthen emotional health.¹ The question is how to make these benefits part of daily education. Outdoor musical instruments offer one answer, creating vibrant spaces that inspire learning, nurture well-being, and give every student the chance to thrive.

What are Freenotes Instruments?

Freenotes Harmony Park instruments are crafted to unite nature and learning. Built to withstand any weather and tuned to the pentatonic scale, they welcome students of all backgrounds to explore melody and self-expression. Because every note resonates in harmony no matter how it's played, Freenotes remove barriers and create more space for joyful learning.

- **Always in Harmony:** Built on a pentatonic scale so every note blends beautifully and intentionally.
- **Effortless to Play:** No tuning or musical experience is required, making self-expression possible for everyone, regardless of age or ability.
- **Durable and Accessible:** Weather-ready, ergonomic, and equipped with attached mallets for ease of use, even for those with limited mobility.

Music in the Open Air

When music is paired with the outdoors, it encourages exploration, creativity, and growth.



Social-Emotional Growth

Outdoor musical play helps children learn to regulate emotions and communicate effectively. One four-year-old with a trauma background learned to express feelings with words instead of tears through regular engagement in music-rich outdoor play.²



Curriculum Integration

Freenotes instruments align with the National Association for Music Education's goals for early childhood. They allow educators to naturally weave singing, movement, listening, and instrument play into lessons on patterns, sound, and cultural diversity.³



Hands-on Learning

Playing music together builds critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills that extend far beyond the playground.

¹ The story of Mark is a composite example based on research findings by the Dimensions Educational Research Foundation, which highlights how nature-based, music-rich play environments can support emotional regulation and communication skills in children, particularly those who have experienced trauma.

² Early childhood music education should offer children opportunities to sing, move, listen, and play instruments. For more on these goals, see the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) resources on early childhood music education.

Rooted & Ready

Freenotes instruments are adaptable, quick to install, and fully accessible. They can be freestanding or wall-mounted, and no safety surfacing is required. Freenotes's versatility is an ideal choice for:

- Schools & daycare centers
- Therapy centers
- Anywhere learning and play take place

A Proven Solution for Lifelong Benefits

Adding Freenotes instruments to an outdoor space is a simple way to unlock the advantages of outdoor learning.³ These include:

- Stronger academic performance and improved memory retention
- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Greater motivation and engagement
- Enhanced physical health and communication skills

Outdoor Classrooms are Purposeful

An effective outdoor classroom engages all the senses and supports the whole child. ³ Adding a music zone with Freenotes instruments introduces a new dimension of immersive learning.

Outdoor Classroom Element	Benefits with Freenotes Instruments
Nature-based seating & writing surfaces	Encourages comfort, focus, and connection to the natural environment
Gardens, greenhouses & native landscaping	Supports hands-on learning, sustainability, and environmental awareness
Movement & balance equipment	Promotes physical development, coordination, and active engagement

³ The benefits of outdoor learning are well-documented across multiple studies. This list is supported by research from the Children & Nature Network, as well as academic works by researchers like Burdette & Whitaker and Wells, which show a positive correlation between time spent outdoors and improved academic, physical, and emotional outcomes.

Harmony in Motion

Schools and organizations across the country are discovering how outdoor music transforms learning.

Kansas Children's Discovery Center

This Certified Nature Explore Classroom combines Freenotes instruments with gardens and natural materials to spark curiosity, self-expression, and emotional growth.

The Bright School

(Chattanooga, TN) Portable Freenotes instruments, available in toddler and standard heights, are part of daily learning. They support music education, social connection, and emotional well-being for every child.



Chattanooga, TN: Dorrian Green Park, Freenotes Harmony Park instruments, earned the 2018 Award for Design Excellence for MKSK Studios and the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks.

Conclusion: Where Learning Takes Root and Music Takes Flight

Freenotes Harmony Park instruments offer more than beautiful sound. They create opportunities for learning, connection, and lifelong growth. By taking music outdoors, educators can build spaces where creativity thrives, and every child feels a sense of community and belonging.

Bring the harmony of nature and education to your school. When music fills the air, learning grows naturally.

Join the movement to bring music outdoors.

Freenotes Harmony Park
544 Chestnut Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402
info@freenotesharmonypark.com
833-262-1569

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