

Bonnie Verron

Connetquot Schools District

Grades K - 5

Elementary General Music

CCLS - Reading for Information - Critical listening

Music specific vocabulary

React to music, improvisation

Sing and play with others

Reading for Literature - Timbre

Cultural Connections

Music Sparkles -

[itunes.apple.com/us/app/music-sparkles-all-in-one/id452584114?mt=8](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/music-sparkles-all-in-one/id452584114?mt=8)

Music Sparkles was the first app I introduced to my students when I received my 1st generation iPad. The app is free but with limited instrumentation so I did purchase the extra instrument pak. Students can explore 14 instruments, some they are familiar with - others are new to them, depending on the grade level. A great introduction to music vocabulary - names of instruments, high/low, sound quality/timbre, pitch, etc. Students can add background loops to their creations by adding bongos, piano, etc. available at the top of the page. The solfege scale is also present to explore with vocalization. The app definition describes it for preschool/toddlers but I have had success with ALL grade levels. A fun and creative app that explores music in an easy to use format!

What a great way to introduce or build upon music specific vocabulary! When exploring this app, introduce the proper name of the instrument. What 'family' does it belong to and why? Where have you heard this instrument before? Cultural connections can be made whenever possible. Students use critical listening skills throughout and can create their own composition or attempt to play one the teacher provides (Twinkle Twinkle is easy enough to play). Play the same song on different instruments. Do they sound the same? Different? How come? Critique the performances whenever possible and have fun exploring and discussing all of your creations!

