

Teachers Comment on PipeWorks

"This is a marvelously integrated project."

"The PipeWorks project is an excellent model of structuring a unit to integrate all the intelligences!"

"Kids and teachers alike love PipeWorks! It is engaging, educational, and fun!"

"The science component, with its focus on sound, fits well with the school's curricula. The social studies culture comparison fits well with all grades."

"All the children were excited about the program."

"As a teacher who is very picky about the curriculum I use with my students, I found PipeWorks to be interesting, engaging, and very worthwhile. There are many opportunities to extend the activities that I hope to explore next year with my class."

"The artists and the pipe organ were a plus!"



Note: There are two versions of our PipeWorks video. The complete version is thirteen minutes in length; the overview version is five minutes in length. Both may be ordered from AGO National Headquarters.

(Free plus \$5 shipping and handling)

American Guild of Organists PipeWorks

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PipeWorks Top 10

1. What is PipeWorks?

PipeWorks is a two-week interdisciplinary program of classroom instruction designed to teach upper elementary school students about the world of the pipe organ. The use of a traveling pipe organ, "visits" from famous composers, and hands-on science experiments are included in the curricula that integrates key concepts in music, science, and social studies. A field trip to a pipe organ installation serves as the capstone event of the program.

2. How do we get started?

Start by selecting a project coordinator, someone who oversees the project. Obtain support from your local chapter. Show the PipeWorks video to present an overview of the project.

3. How do we gain access to a school?

You can gain access through friends, parents, teachers, and mutual contacts. Make an appointment with the school principal. Start with one school and keep the initial project small. Leave copies of the PipeWorks video with the principal and teachers.

4. How do we find a small pipe organ?

Contact pipe organbuilders, chamber music groups, orchestras, and similar groups in your area. Often there are instruments available in your region. A pipe organ with exposed pipes and visible mechanisms is preferred. PipeWorks instruments are available in some AGO regions.

5. Who is needed?

In addition to participating school personnel, you will need a project coordinator, persons to portray composers, organists to introduce the organ to the students and to provide the field trip program, and volunteers.

Questions and Answers

6. What is needed?

PipeWorks curricula (from AGO National Headquarters), a portable organ to reside in the school during the project, a facility for a field trip that has an organ with a visible console, instructional materials for the in-school project, and a PipeWorks video.

7. How much time do we need?

Planning should start approximately 6 months prior to the project. Actual in-school instruction lasts 2 weeks.

8. How do we introduce the project to the teachers?

Conduct a brief workshop with the teachers prior to starting in the schools. Distribute instructional materials at the workshop.

9. What are the costs?

The cost per student is approximately \$6. This includes the donation of the project pipe organ and the donation of the field trip site. This cost does not include the transportation for the field trip. Transportation costs vary by area and may be paid by the school, the supporting AGO chapter, or other collaborating groups. Contact local arts councils or other sources for funding, if needed.

10. Where do we get more information?

Contact AGO National Headquarters:

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