How might we increase students’ learning retention in the elementary school classroom, ultimately resulting in better test scores and academic performance?

**Problem Area**

Georgia high schools are failing to match nationwide averages in academic performance. Both high school graduations rates and SAT scores are falling below the national average.

**Our Solution**

We believe that integrating music in the classroom at an early age will improve students’ learning retention, ultimately resulting in a rise in test scores and overall academic performance. Statistically, schools with music programs have higher performing students.

After partnering with a teacher at Centennial Academy, we will begin to go through the curriculum for the fall semester and create songs based off of the material. Aside from creating songs, we will brainstorm ways to make the song writing process more interactive with the students.

**Measure of Success**: The songs for each unit are written and approved by the teacher. We will also have a concrete idea of how we can get students more involved in the process.

**Actions Taken**: We have met with administrators from Centennial Academy. We will receive a list of potential teachers next week.

Throughout the experimentation process, we will receive feedback from the teacher and the students in the form of interviews and Likert scales. We will also be very particular in organizing quantitative data in the form of test scores. Analyzing our results is an essential step in moving forward with our project so we know what is effective and what is not.

**Measure of Success**: We will be able to use both the quantitative and qualitative data to improve our experimental process.

**Actions Taken**: None as of yet. Interview and Likert Scale questions will be created prior to our first day in the classroom.

**Future Directions**

We plan on implementing our project throughout the Fall 2015 semester with one teacher and two-four classes. If we are successful, we will expand to more grades, subjects, and art mediums. Our ultimate goal is to create a handbook for integrating the arts into education.