



Little Kids Rock Course Catalog





Modern band is an entirely new kind of school music program invented by Little Kids Rock. It teaches kids to perform, improvise, and compose using the popular styles that they know and love including rock, pop, rap, R&B, and others. Modern band classes feature guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, vocals, and technology.

Our modern band programs leverage the cultural capital of the children we serve. Through culturally responsive music education programming, we aim to engage all students and honor their diverse life experiences. Modern band also expands upon existing music programming such as marching band, jazz band, and chorus, making music available to children who might otherwise not participate in traditional music classes.

A number of our partner districts, including the nation's two largest public school systems, the New York City Department of Education and the Los Angeles Unified School District, as well as the Dallas Independent School District, Chicago Public Schools, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and Hartford Public Schools have adopted modern band, making it an official part of their music programming. More than 50 colleges and universities that train music teachers including New York University, Ithaca College, and California State University, are now offering their students methods courses that focus in part or entirely on modern band.

Little Kids Rock provides professional development courses for music and non-music teachers alike at all grade levels to launch and maintain modern band programming at their schools. These courses enable educators to effectively provide synchronous, asynchronous, and blended learning to their students. To meet the needs of the moment, Little Kids Rock has created virtual versions of our unique professional development courses, including our Modern Band 101 and 102 courses. Our courses and their accompanying online music education resources are designed to build professional skills in new and innovative areas of school music pedagogy.

The following is our complete course catalog with both certification and elective offerings. Our team here at Little Kids Rock will work alongside you to schedule the content that best meets your teachers' specific needs as well as assist in marketing and outreach within the district. Virtual offerings begin on the following page while In-Person professional development options start on [page 8](#).



Virtual Certification Courses *For a list of our In-Person offerings please see [page 8](#).*

Certification courses, upon completion, provide educators the opportunity to register as a Little Kids Rock teacher. This distinction includes the below benefits:

- Professional development hours.
- Access to future professional development courses at no cost.
- Access to our private online community of more than 1,800 modern band practitioners from across the country, posting questions, sharing resources, and exchanging support every day.
- A deeply discounted registration rate to our Modern Band Summit conference.
- Continued access to our curricular materials and online resources.
- Special offers from our partners, including resources for you and your classroom such as composition tools, play-along apps, private lessons, and more!

Modern Band 101

This hands-on course serves as an introduction to modern band and the Music as a Second Language® pedagogy. This course covers the basic core values of Little Kids Rock: how we teach music-making, improvisation, and composition by getting our students into a comfort zone using student-centered instruction, approximation, and scaffolding. Participants are introduced to the instruments of modern band: guitar, keyboard, drums, vocals, bass, and technology, and learn basic playing skills and pedagogy for each. Participants will also use their new musical skills to compose and perform an original song in a collaborative setting.

Total number of course hours: 6 *(can be offered in three 2-hour modules)*

Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: Guitar recommended

Modern Band 101U (Ukulele)

This hands-on course serves as an introduction to modern band and the Music as a Second Language® pedagogy. This course covers the basic core values of Little Kids Rock: how we teach music-making, improvisation, and composition by getting our students into a comfort zone using student-centered instruction, approximation, and scaffolding. Participants are introduced to the instruments of modern band: ukulele, keyboard, drums, vocals, bass, and technology, and learn basic playing skills and pedagogy for each. Participants will also use their new musical skills to compose and perform an original song in a collaborative setting. This course replaces guitar instruction with ukulele.

Total number of course hours: 6 *(can be offered in three 2-hour modules)*

Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: Ukulele recommended

Modern Band 102

This hands-on course focuses on how to implement modern band in typical classrooms with large numbers of students and diverse needs. Topics include using modern band charts, teaching multiple instruments simultaneously, and intermediate musical skill building, including a special focus on composition and improvisation. Participants will learn to use current popular hits to incorporate important musical skills such as active listening, ear training, scaffolding, approximation, and arranging for modern band.

Total number of course hours: 6 *(can be offered in three 2-hour modules)*

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101

Materials needed by participants: Guitar recommended

Digital Songwriting and Production 161 *(previously Composing through Songwriting)*

This course is designed to address the current needs of all teachers who are providing virtual music instruction. Participants will learn to teach their students to collaboratively compose and produce songs using an online digital audio workstation (DAW) such as Soundtrap and incorporate a Project-Based Learning (PBL) unit with sequential lessons. Through various hands-on activities, participants will learn new student-centered strategies to engage their music students in a meaningful way by nurturing their creativity, providing social-emotional learning, and incorporating the Music as a Second Language® pedagogy.

Total number of course hours: 6 *(can be offered in three 2-hour modules)*

Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: None

Digital Songwriting and Production 162 *(previously Composing through Songwriting)*

This course provides participants with the skills needed to advance student creativity by increasing student understanding of musical expression through songwriting and digital music production. Participants will work through a Project-Based Learning (PBL) unit incorporating technology, virtual instructional strategies, and social-emotional learning competencies. This interactive hands-on course will demonstrate how to incorporate this instruction into any music class by using Music as a Second Language's® guiding principles of student choice and voice.

Total number of course hours: 6 *(can be offered in three 2-hour modules)*

Prerequisites: Digital Songwriting and Production 161

Materials needed by participants: None

Social-Emotional Learning in Modern Band 178

Throughout this course, participants will learn to engage students in mindful explorations of their emotional lives. To achieve this, participants will engage in activities like a "Honoring Our Loved Ones," where they will use music to explore the seven stages of grieving. Participants will also create a musical letter on a personal loss, using contemporary popular music. Through these activities, participants will learn to guide students through difficult life experiences, using music as a catalyst for healing and expression.

Total number of course hours: 6 *(can be offered in three 2-hour modules)*

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101

Materials needed by participants: None

Hip Hop in Modern Band 171

One of the most popular requests from educators are tools not only to understand hip-hop, but how it can be effectively introduced and utilized with students as a culturally-reflective pedagogy. This course will help participants understand hip-hop music's influential voice in education and identify key artists, producers, and sounds while learning to create their own samples, lyrics, and songs. Participants will be exposed to compositional techniques, culture building activities, and an array of artists, playlists, and songs that support a classroom-friendly learning environment.

Total number of course hours: 6 *(can be offered in three 2-hour modules)*

Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: None

Virtual Elective Courses

Elective professional development sessions are open to all educators. Teachers who complete these sessions are eligible to receive professional development hours and continued access to our curricular materials and online resources.

Next Steps for Songwriting 181

Building on the foundational concepts for composition in the modern band classroom, this session uses engaging activities to explore lyrical writing, musical writing, and the bridge between them that leads to storytelling, whether participants are working in a remote, in-person, or blended learning environment. Participants will learn how to incorporate social-emotional learning into their songwriting pedagogy. This session also contains ideas for all levels on beat-making and production, composing for a rhythm section, and crafting melodic ideas.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101

Materials needed by participants: None

Virtual Music Performance 186

Social distancing in the music classroom and virtual instruction have created new, unprecedented challenges for teachers, including how to provide students with opportunities to perform for their communities. In this session, participants will learn how to prepare their students to video record themselves. Participants will then learn how to take these videos and produce student group performances. Strategies will be provided to help participants create videos that are relevant and meaningful to their students and school communities.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: Device for recording recommended

Virtual Music Performance 187

Social distancing in the music classroom and virtual instruction have created new, unprecedented challenges for teachers, including how to provide students with opportunities to perform for their communities. In this session, participants will learn how to prepare their students to video record themselves. Participants will then learn how to take these videos and produce student group performances. Strategies will be provided to help participants create videos that are relevant and meaningful to their students and school communities.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Virtual Music Performance 186 recommended, but not required

Materials needed by participants: Access to Final Cut Pro recommended

Student-Centered Learning & Instruction 202

This course dives deeper into the Music as a Second Language® pedagogy. Participants will build tools and reflect on how to adapt their pedagogy to create more opportunities for student-centered learning in the areas of repertoire, performance design, and lesson/unit design, creating curriculum, and teaching strategies to empower students through music instruction. Additionally, participants will work to amplify student voice and choice as they design and implement their instruction in the modern band classroom.

Total number of course hours: 3 (can be offered in two 90 minute modules)

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: None

Music Listening & Exploration 179

This session focuses on the different ways students can listen to and engage with music. Participants will engage hands-on with music through a variety of approaches and media including movement, visual art, cultural context, and relevant music theory, demonstrating practical techniques to bring these active listening and appreciation skills and to students, at age- and ability-appropriate levels, as a critical step in musical and personal development.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: None

Latin Music 175

This session focuses on the different ways students can listen to and engage with music. Participants will engage hands-on with music through a variety of approaches and media including movement, visual art, cultural context, and relevant music theory, demonstrating practical techniques to bring these active listening and appreciation skills and to students, at age- and ability-appropriate levels, as a critical step in musical and personal development.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101

Materials needed by participants: None

Next Steps on Drums 143

In this session, participants will build on the drum set skills covered in the Modern Band 101 and 102 courses. Participants will cover concepts such as: drum set-up and maintenance, playing in triple-meter, limb independence, the role of drums in an ensemble, “melodic drumming”, transcription, and improvisation. Participants will bring these concepts to their students to deepen their understanding of drum set musical skills and concepts.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: None (junk drums optional for virtual)

Next Steps on Bass 132

In this session, participants will build on the bass skills covered in the Modern Band 101 and 102 courses by focusing on both bass technique and bass player role in modern band ensembles. Participants will work on mastering control over note length, playing steady rhythms, adding passing notes to bass parts, playing with specific musical intervals such as octaves and 5ths, and composing a variety of bass lines from a given chord chart.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: Bass Guitar recommended

Next Steps on Ukulele 114

In this session, participants will build on the fretted-instrument skills covered in the Modern Band 101 and 102 courses. Participants will explore syncopated strumming patterns, power chords, scales, barre chords, and tablature for ukulele. Throughout the session, participants will improvise and compose, acquiring skills they can pass on to their students.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: Ukulele

Tech Pathways: Tech as an Instrument 163

In this session, participants will learn to use iPads and Digital Audio Workstations as musical instruments in a modern band setting. Participants will use a variety of accessible platforms and scaffolding techniques to create music live. They will also explore various methods of allowing students to compose, improvise, and play as an ensemble using digital instruments.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: iPad, MIDI keyboard, computer

Tech Pathways: Tech for Production 164

In this session, participants will use a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) to teach music production skills to modern band students. Participants will use loops, MIDI, and original audio to acquire basic music production skills in a hands-on, experiential, and student-centered context. They will explore elements of music such as form, texture, and timbre in relation to real-world production practices.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102, Digital Songwriting and Production 161

Materials needed by participants: Computer

Tech Pathways: Tech Teaching Tools 165

In this session, participants will learn basic audio and video editing techniques for creating classroom resources such as audio and video tracks to enhance their modern band instruction. Participants will change the pitch and tempo of audio, sync video and audio, and incorporate basic animation and text overlays to create student-centered resources.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: Computer with video and audio editing software such as Audacity or iMovie

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Total number of course hours: 6 (can be offered in three 2-hour modules)

Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: Guitar recommended

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Total number of course hours: 6 (can be offered in three 2-hour modules)

Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: Ukulele recommended

Modern Band 102

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Total number of course hours: 6 (can be offered in three 2-hour modules)

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101

Materials needed by participants: Guitar recommended

Digital Songwriting and Production 161 *(previously Composing through Songwriting)*

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Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: None

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Prerequisites: Digital Songwriting and Production 161

Materials needed by participants: None

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Materials needed by participants: None

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Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: None

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Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101

Materials needed by participants: None

Virtual Music Performance 186

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Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Materials needed by participants: Device for recording recommended

Virtual Music Performance 187

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Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Virtual Music Performance 186 recommended, but not required

Materials needed by participants: Access to Final Cut Pro recommended

Student-Centered Learning & Instruction 202

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Total number of course hours: 3 (can be offered in two 90 minute modules)

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: None

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Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: None

Latin Music 175

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Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101

Materials needed by participants: None

Next Steps on Drums 143

In this session, participants will build on the drum set skills covered in the Modern Band 101 and 102 courses. Participants will cover concepts such as: drum set-up and maintenance, playing in triple-meter, limb independence, the role of drums in an ensemble, “melodic drumming”, transcription, and improvisation. Participants will bring these concepts to their students to deepen their understanding of drum set musical skills and concepts.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: None (junk drums optional for virtual)

Next Steps on Bass 132

In this session, participants will build on the bass skills covered in the Modern Band 101 and 102 courses by focusing on both bass technique and bass player role in modern band ensembles. Participants will work on mastering control over note length, playing steady rhythms, adding passing notes to bass parts, playing with specific musical intervals such as octaves and 5ths, and composing a variety of bass lines from a given chord chart.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: Bass Guitar recommended

Next Steps on Ukulele 114

In this session, participants will build on the fretted-instrument skills covered in the Modern Band 101 and 102 courses. Participants will explore syncopated strumming patterns, power chords, scales, barre chords, and tablature for ukulele. Throughout the session, participants will improvise and compose, acquiring skills they can pass on to their students.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: Ukulele

Tech Pathways: Tech as an Instrument 163

In this session, participants will learn to use iPads and Digital Audio Workstations as musical instruments in a modern band setting. Participants will use a variety of accessible platforms and scaffolding techniques to create music live. They will also explore various methods of allowing students to compose, improvise, and play as an ensemble using digital instruments.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: iPad, MIDI keyboard, computer

Tech Pathways: Tech for Production 164

In this session, participants will use a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) to teach music production skills to modern band students. Participants will use loops, MIDI, and original audio to acquire basic music production skills in a hands-on, experiential, and student-centered context. They will explore elements of music such as form, texture, and timbre in relation to real-world production practices.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102, Digital Songwriting and Production 161

Materials needed by participants: Computer

Tech Pathways: Tech Teaching Tools 165

In this session, participants will learn basic audio and video editing techniques for creating classroom resources such as audio and video tracks to enhance their modern band instruction. Participants will change the pitch and tempo of audio, sync video and audio, and incorporate basic animation and text overlays to create student-centered resources.

Total number of course hours: 1.5

Prerequisites: Modern Band 101 and 102

Materials needed by participants: Computer with video and audio editing software such as Audacity or iMovie