



## **Ellison Park Elementary School Pilots New microLab Concept of Portable, Scalable Music Tech Labs**

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Come the new school year, the students at Ellison Park Elementary School will find a new reason to enjoy coming to school—the school recently unveiled a new Korg microLab, an affordable, mobile, and re-configurable music technology lab that can offer students of all levels an introduction to electronic music.

microLab is a concept that was developed by the educational division of Korg, a leading keyboard and music technology products manufacturer for over 50 years. Ellison Park worked in tandem with the company to implement the first microLab set up in a school system. Their lab configuration consists of compact Korg microKey music keyboards that can be connected to a computer, as well as headphones and two different software curriculum packages. One of the best features of the lab is that it is mobile and expandable, which means Ellison Park will be able to keep using it and evolving it for many years to come. In addition, it will introduce children as young as Kindergarten the basics of using a computer with musical instruments.

Because there are several versions of the microLab available, school systems can select one that best suits their needs, whether it be a small “starter” version, or a step-up version that expands upon their existing setup, all the way through to a larger, fully networked version. Unlike traditional music labs that can take several years of planning and funding, microLabs are affordable enough that schools can easily use the fundraising capability of the local PTA or parent organization to implement a lab that integrates music technology into their music program without having the burden of large

grants or big budgeting challenges. And because there is minimal setup required for the lab, it can be funded and installed at any time of the year.

Ellison Park principal, Chuck Johnson, commented about the school's new lab, "The keyboard lab has been a great addition to our school. It has exposed students to the world of music in a very practical way. Many children have pianos in their home that they can use in tandem with their instruction in school. This keyboard lab will give all students core exposure to pianos that can guide them to increased skill and enjoyment, which will serve them throughout their lives. This lab has made our school a better educational institution by more effectively serving the students and families of our school."