

Halve Your Meter

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What can a music teacher add when his elementary school decides to "go metric" for a month?

The *modus operandi* for the interdisciplinary approach in our school was for each teacher to design activities, from the perspective of his bailiwick, which lead to the mastery of certain competencies decided upon by the teachers as a group. One of these competencies involved the students learning some of the language of the metric system. My response to this was, "Why not use the device of rhyme and tune to learn the new metric vocabulary?"

"Halve Your Meter" is the result of such an attempt. To our surprise it has been an instant hit in music classes in Grades I through IV. It is our hope that familiarity with the metric language will provide a first step in understanding the metric system.

If students want to make their own songs, a math or science teacher could have his students write down their words, or better yet, have them record their own songs on tape. From such a tape many music teachers are able, and willing, to notate the students' work.

From the Standpoint of a music teacher looking at the metric system - how much more pleasant to have a spoonful of sugar to make the medicine go down.

Halve Your Meter

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How much I weigh I'll ask my gram. How
far I've gone I'll check my me-ter. But
e-ven the big-gest eat-er could
hard-ly drink a li-ter. There's
de-ci, cen-ti and mi-li.
They get so small it is
sil-ly, but de-ka, hec-to and
ki-lo is large as I now so.