Building Student Performance Portfolios in Band and Orchestra

It's easier than you think!

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Band, grades 5 – 8

Strings, grades 7 and 8

Start with a little advance planning. Make it easy for yourself to save student artifacts.

Ahead of time, set up a master folder for student work, then set up folders for each student, within folders for each class, within a folder for a grade level or ensemble – whatever your situation dictates.
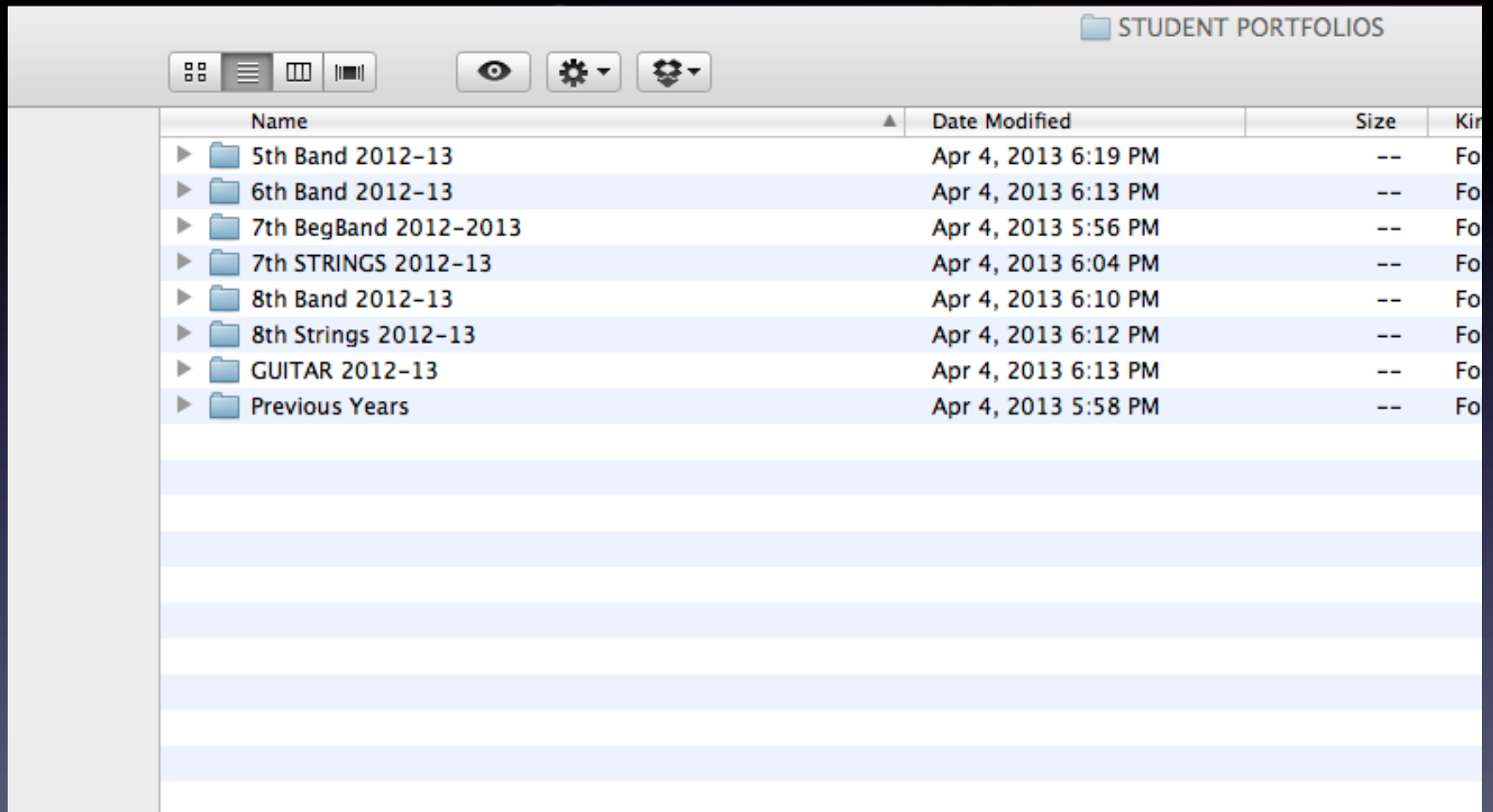
- Student Portfolios
  - 8th Grade
    - 8th Grade Band
      - 8th Grade Flutes
        - Name-file

My master folder…

My 5th grade woodwind class folder open…

There is a folder for each student, as well as a folder for full ensemble videos and a folder for photographs taken to assess posture, hand position,etc..

A 7ᵗʰ grade string ensemble student's folder open…

TUDENT PORTFOLIOS	Apr 7, 2013 11:43 PM	--	Fo
7th STRINGS 2012-13	Apr 7, 2013 11:56 PM	--	Fo
ARCHER	Yesterday, 8:56 AM	--	Fo
GANGULY	Apr 7, 2013 11:58 PM	--	Fo
Ganguly A scale high oct 3-12-13.mp3	Apr 7, 2013 11:58 PM	786 KB	MF
Madison-Ishani duet Feb. 12 2013.mp3	Apr 4, 2013 6:00 PM	1.5 MB	MF
Gangulyl Going Home 3-12-13.mp3	Mar 12, 2013 8:10 AM	504 KB	MF
Gangulyl Aura Lee 2-4-13.mp3	Feb 5, 2013 9:30 PM	864 KB	MF
Gangulyl Minuet No. 1 11-07-12.mp3	Nov 13, 2012 4:08 PM	340 KB	MF
Gangulyl C scale 10-29-12.mp3	Nov 2, 2012 11:42 AM	299 KB	MF
Gangulyl Playing C natural 10-29-12.mp3	Nov 2, 2012 11:41 AM	397 KB	MF
Gangulyl Finger Rock 10-29-12.mp3	Oct 30, 2012 9:22 PM	524 KB	MF
Gangulyl Oats Peas and Beans 10-12-12.mp3	Oct 30, 2012 12:44 PM	406 KB	MF
Ganfulyl G scale low 9-26-12.mp3	Oct 12, 2012 12:35 PM	455 KB	MF
Gangulyl BaaBaa Blk Shp 9-25-12.mp3	Oct 7, 2012 11:53 PM	610 KB	MF
DANFORD	Apr 7, 2013 11:56 PM	--	Fo
7 strings ENSEMBLE	Apr 4, 2013 6:07 PM	--	Fo
KOUL	Apr 4, 2013 5:48 PM	--	Fo
FLEMING	Mar 15, 2013 12:10 PM	--	Fo
SANCHEZ	Mar 13, 2013 8:44 AM	--	Fo

Plan a file naming system and name everything consistently. Examples:

- lastname-initial-title-date.mp3

  - groomsc-F scale-4-4-13.mp3

- date-lastname-title.mp3

  - 2013-april4-grooms-f scale.mp3

Choose the right technology

Capture your students' performances using technology that allows you to save the files to your computer in the fewest steps possible and without having to physically transfer from one device to another. Files you can save directly to the computer or send and download from email are great.

So many ways to create and save files!

- SmartMusic

- Student-emailed video and audio

- Photo or video emailed to yourself from iPad or iPhone

- PhotoBooth videos

- Google Voicemail recordings

SmartMusic Assessments

- Individual playing assessments from assignments

- Individual or ensemble performances captured with the SmartMusic recording tool

SmartMusic student assignments from the teacher grade book....
To download the recording, choose "mp3"

The "save file" screen automatically opens…
Rename the file and save into the appropriate folder

Performances can recorded on the SmartMusic practice tools page....

Record multiple "takes" if you wish. Select the take you like from the "my takes" drop down menu, then select mp3 to open the "save mp3" window.
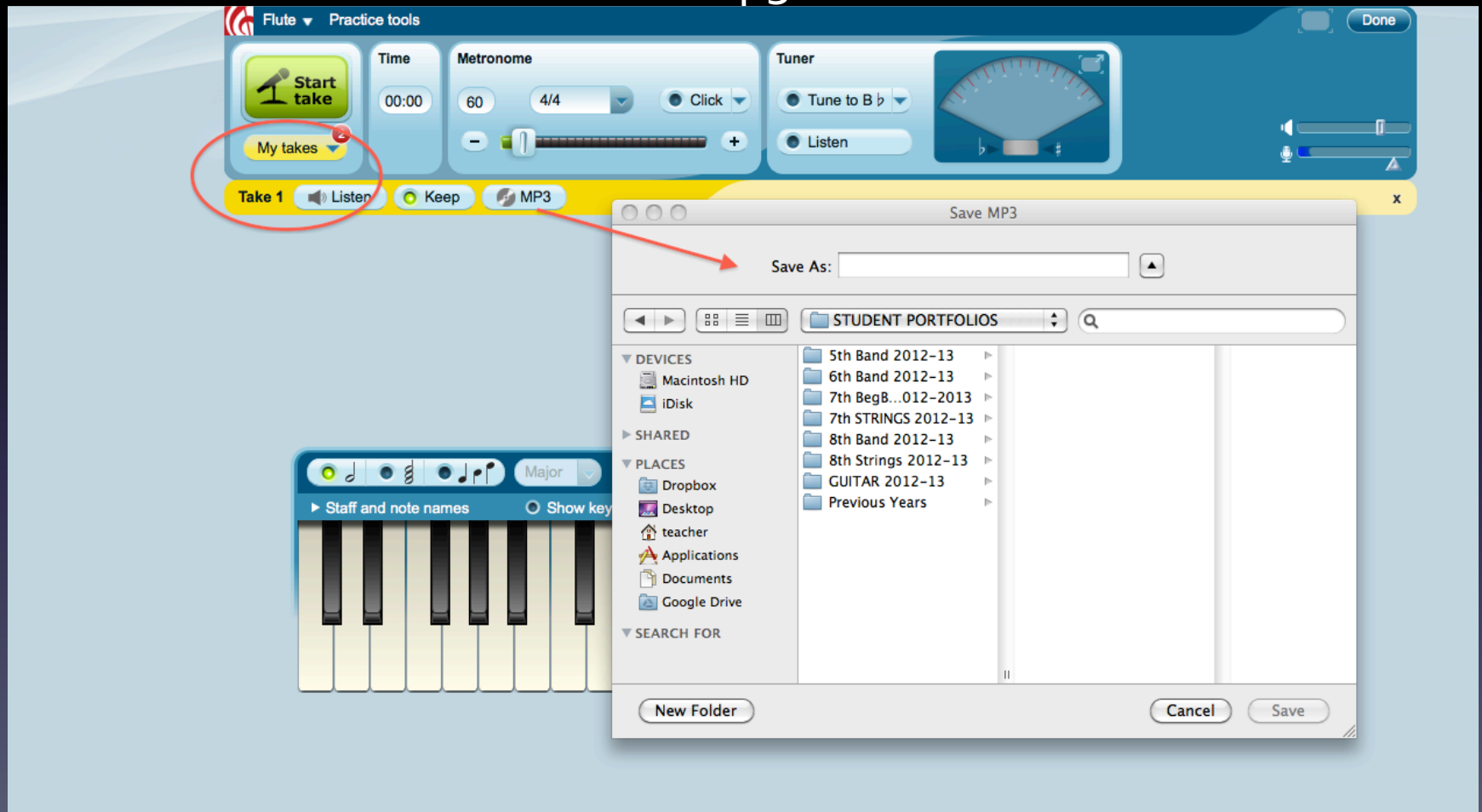
You could also save the screen assessment image…

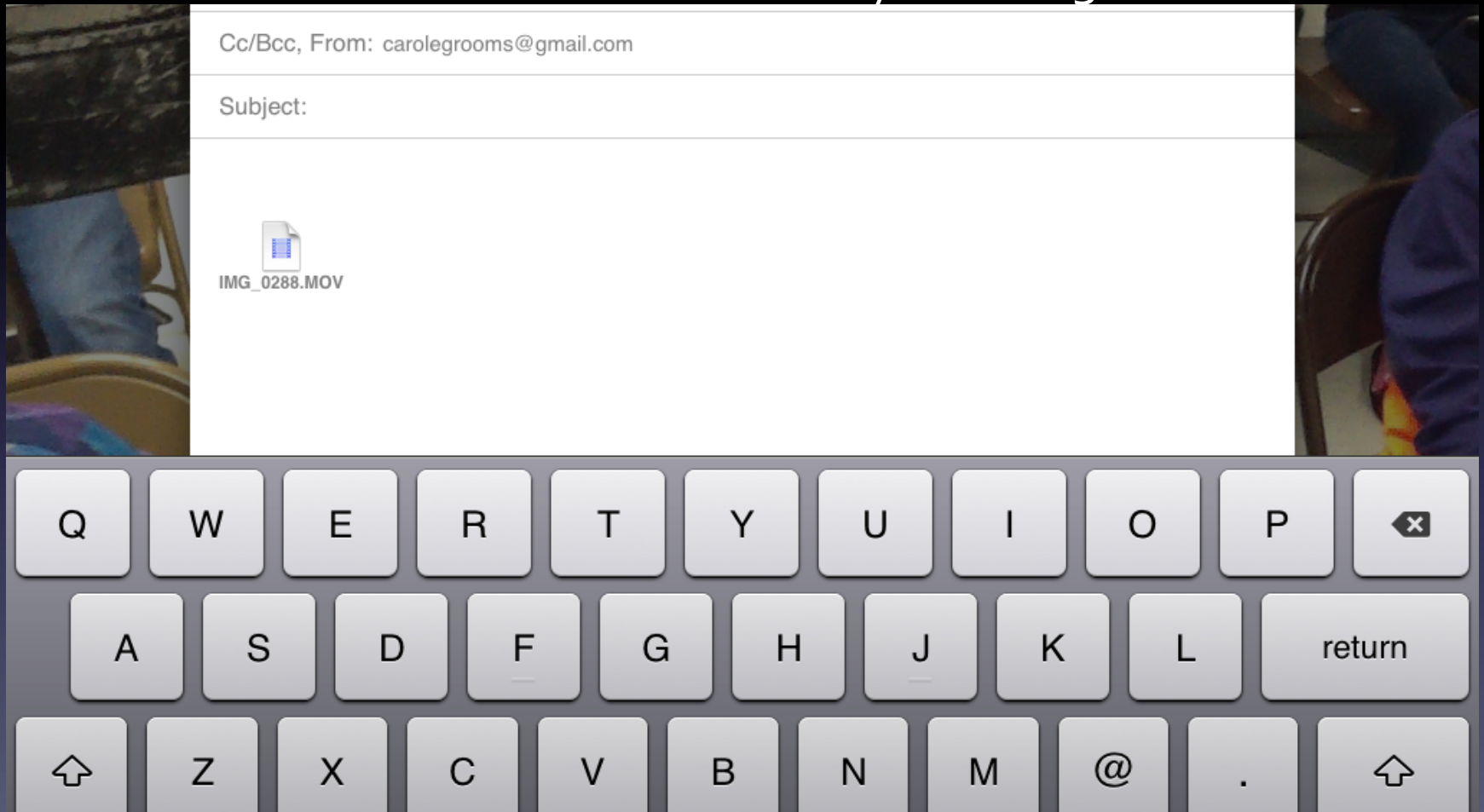# Clicking on "image" opens the "save file" window...

Student emailed audio or video files – just rename them when you download and save.
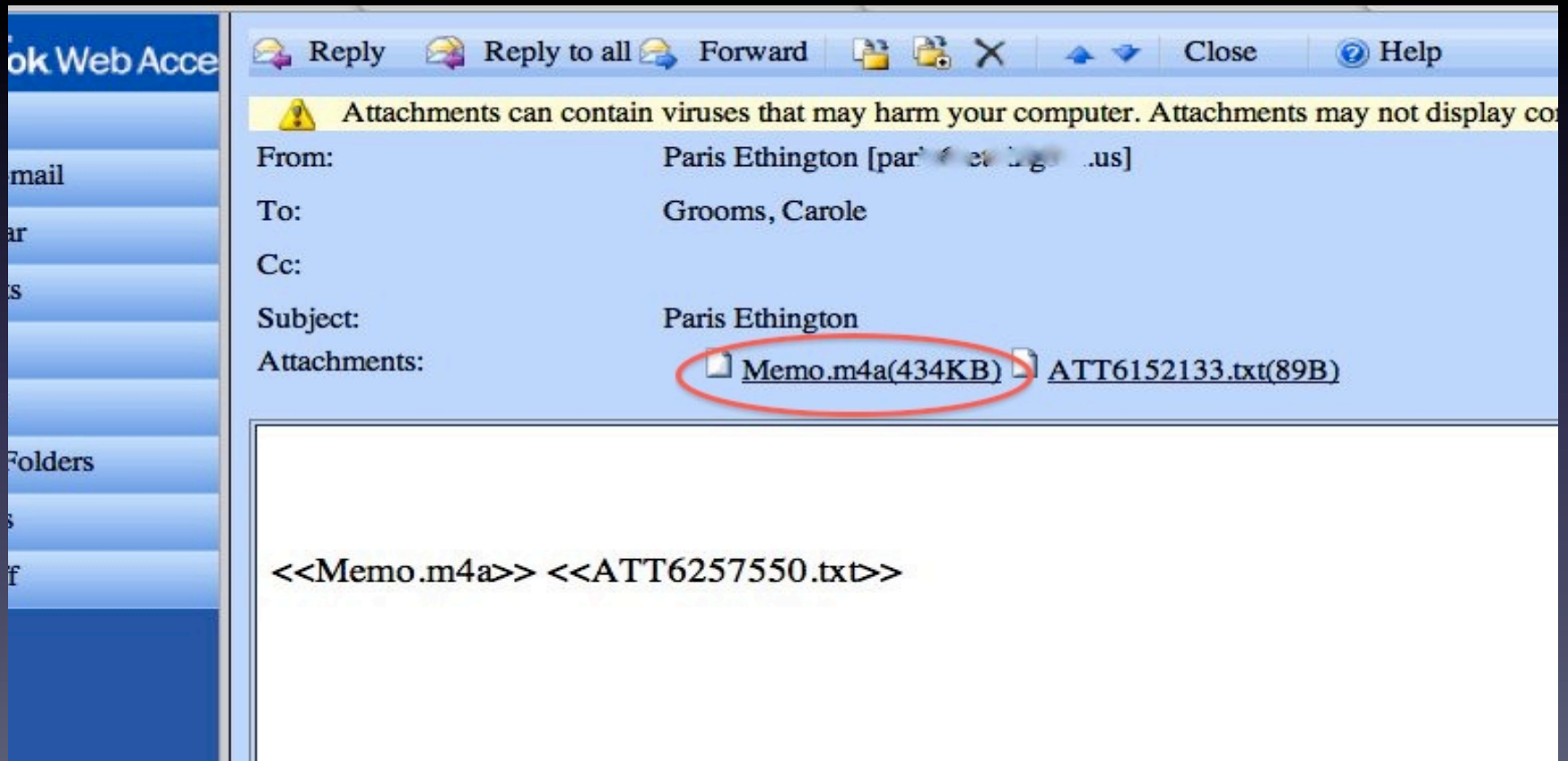
iPad or iPhone video emailed to yourself immediately after videoing…

This is my favorite method of capturing playing assessments in my beginning band classes where SmartMusic is not as easily used. I email them to myself as I go.

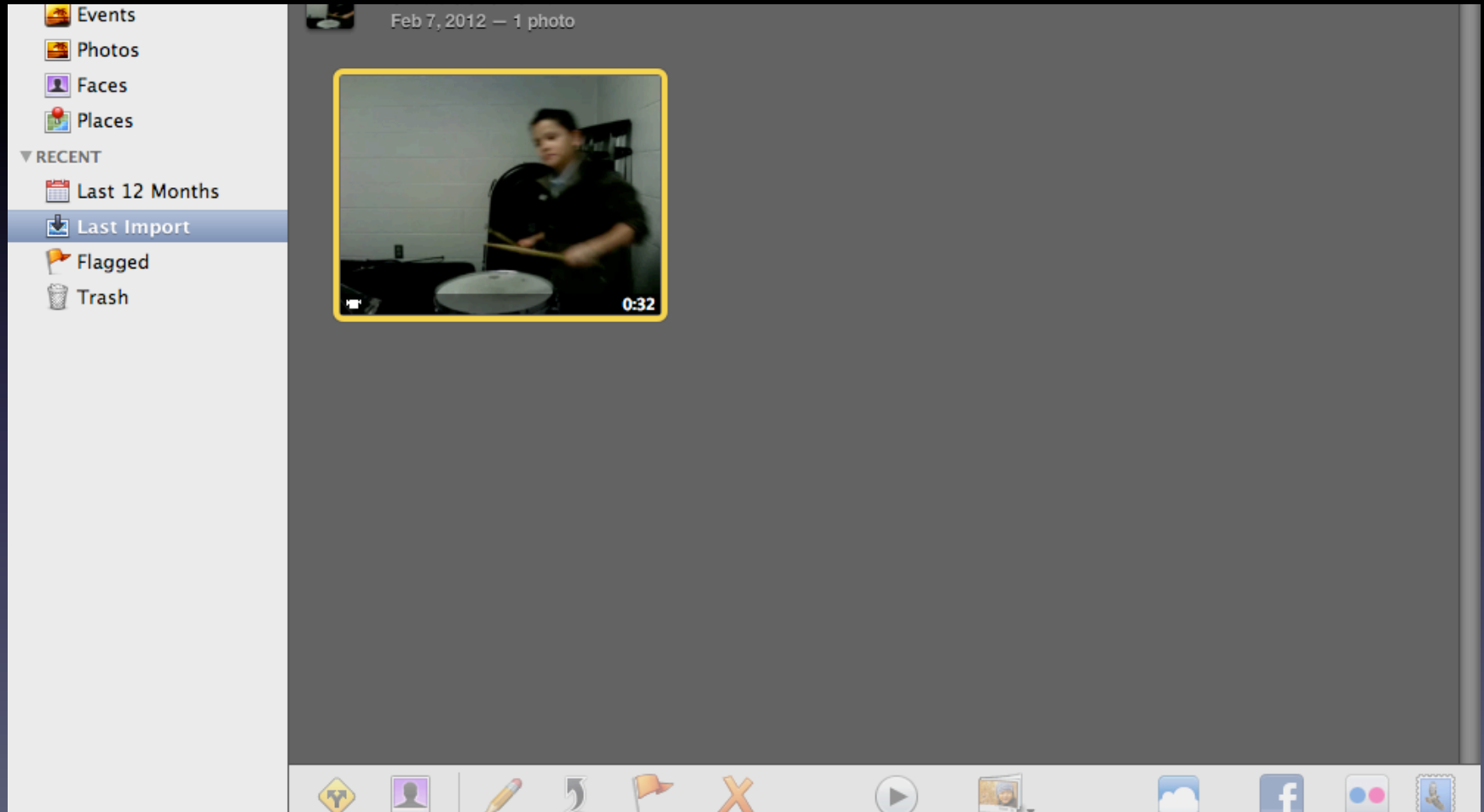PhotoBooth video application —
great when you need to hear AND see.

Export each video to iPhoto by clicking the iPhoto icon …

The video appears in iPhoto where you can rename it. Then, under the File menu, Export the video to a folder or other place. If needed, you can email it to yourself as an attachment.

Google Voicemail recordings-

I use it for verifying home practice in lieu of practice records, but recordings can also be saved and downloaded. Set up a Google Voice phone number so that it only goes to voicemail.

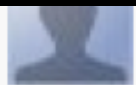You can view your voicemail messages on your Google Voice web page. The date , time and length of the call is recorded here.

Once you "add" a student's name in place of their phone number, their name will show, like caller ID, every time they call from that number.

Expand the "more" menu for a variety of options, including "add note" and "download."

4/4/13 7:02 PM 3 hours ago

Transcript not available

▶ 01:11
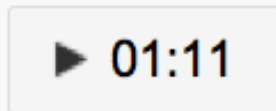
Call   Text   more ▼
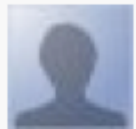
Allen, Brook (615) 513-1377 - mobile

4/4/13 7:00 PM 3 hours ago

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▶ 00:38

I choose "add note" to note what the student played, which also tells me I've logged this call. "Download" to save to the portfolio.
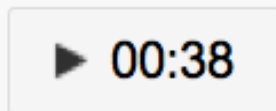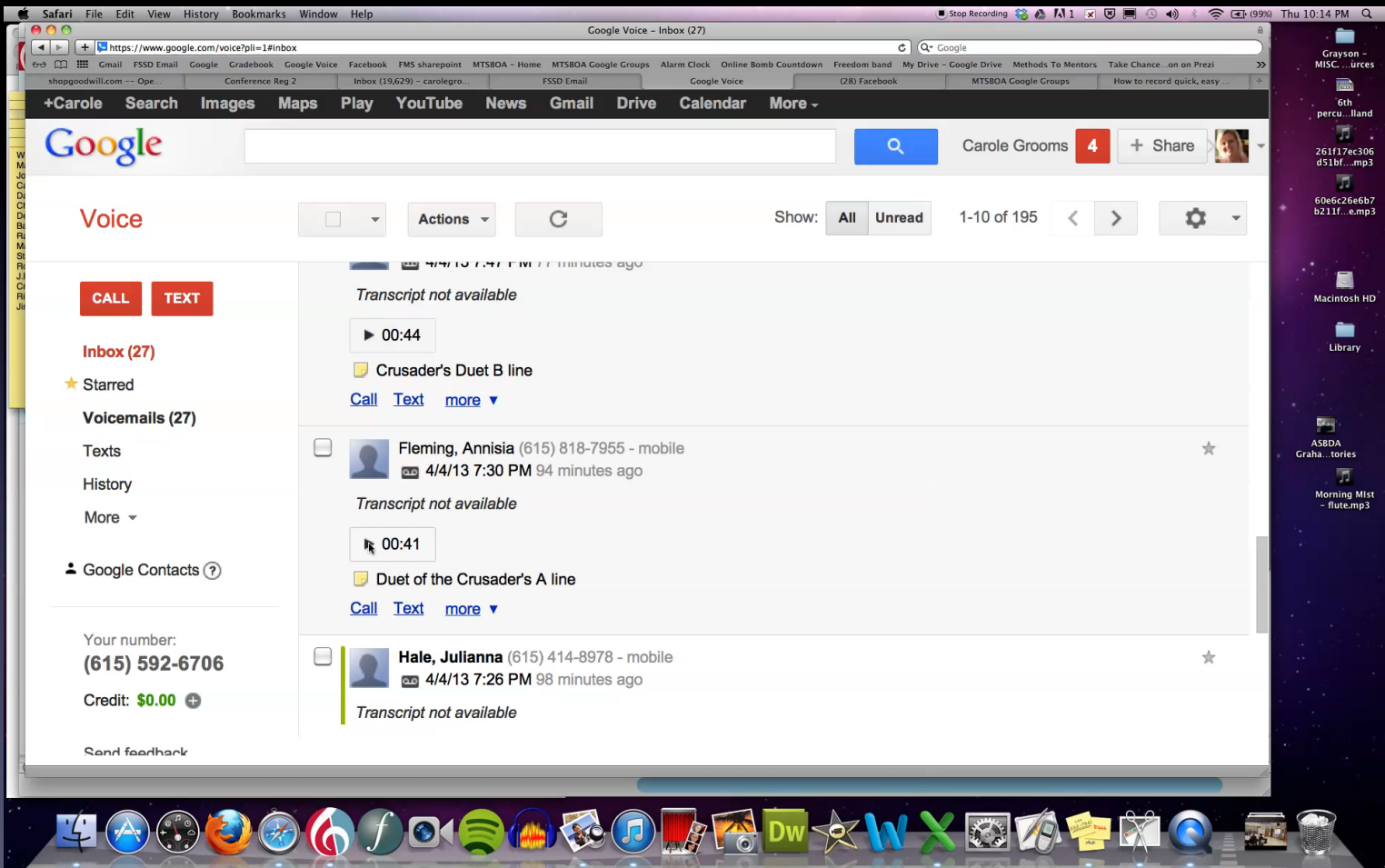
Hear an example...(video)

(The audio is actually better than it sounds captured for this presentation...)

You can also configure the Google voicemail settings to send you an email whenever you have a new message.

☑	!	▢	▽	∅	From	Subject
☐				∅	Carole Grooms	ipad
☐					White, Leah	RE: Questioning PD on June 3rd
☐					Google Voice	New voicemail from (615) 567-6342 at 8:07 PM
☐					Google Voice	New voicemail from Johnson, Harper at 7:05 PM
☐					Google Voice	New voicemail from Johnson, Harper at 6:58 PM
☐					Google Voice	New voicemail from Johnson, Harper at 6:56 PM
☐					Google Voice	New voicemail from (615) 974-6978 at 6:31 PM
☐					Price, Diane	Missing Instrument
☐					Music & Arts	Best Time of Year...
☐					taa	TAA 2013 - Please fax your forms to us so that we can register you
☐					Google Voice	New voicemail from (615) 595-6168 at 4:24 PM
☐					Google Voice	New voicemail from (615) 595-0929 at 4:11 PM

Other sources of video or audio to include..

- Performance recording from the stage at Concert Performance Assessment.

- Video from school concerts, your own or shared by parents.

- Have students video their solo or small ensemble as they are preparing for solo and ensemble performance assessment. They can easily do this themselves with PhotoBooth.

I don't yet include documents and written work in my students' portfolios, but you could…

- Scan and save judge's sheet from solo/ensemble

- Scan and save student written work, particularly self-evaluations or reflection essays

- Scan and save student compositions

- Have student set their own performance goals and save the document

- Concert programs

- Once you get in the routine of saving student work on your computer, more and more means of creating or saving artifacts will begin to come to mind.

- It is possible to burn a CD for an individual student at the end of the year, or end of several years, which shows their growth over time – a great keepsake!

I hope you have found a few new ideas here – good luck!

Carole S. Grooms – April 2013