

# Guitar Department Offers Ultimate Technology

Smooth guitar sounds trickle out of Bill Swick's classroom above the auditorium. Students play a medley on their silent guitars. Since November they have been using Yamaha's LC3 Music Lab technology as opposed to each teen playing an individual acoustic guitar. The system pairs electric guitars with headphones and wiring to a central control so Mr. Swick can control whose guitar is heard outside the headphones with a push of a button. As the photo here shows, they are a very different looking instrument.

LVA's students are the only students in the U. S. using this technology. It's much like what is seen in Janice Seeley's piano room as students work away on electric pianos with headphones on their heads and no sounds but a very small clicking of fingers on keys. Jordan Sasse, student, says, 'Our performances are getting a lot better. He explained that the previous system with acoustics allowed students to make mistakes because they were covered up more than they are now. He said that they also get a lot more volume from their new guitars and there's not so much feedback. Senior Chris Sierchio said 'I get to hear all the mistakes I make when I'm learning a new song or taking an assessment.'

Another student, Kady Sutton, said "We're better, I think, because Mr. Swick can hear all of our mistakes." While in class, Swick can isolate specific students to determine who is doing what at random times without forewarning. He gives each student a playing assessment weekly and now everyone can continue to practice silently while he listens to one student play. This has saved him much class time. The system cost the department about \$50,000 which they had saved up from their concerts and fund raisers.

On March 16 they performed "Guitar Heroes" in the PAC Theater. Students showcased the music of some of the greatest guitarists who ever played, including Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Les Paul and the Beatles.

