

ACOUSTICS2008/3033 Acoustics in the public school classroom

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As mentioned in a DAGA 07 paper¹, physical science preparation in American schools often leaves something to be desired. In recent years the ASA Committee on Education in Acoustics has made an effort to participate in finding relief for that problem. Three approaches have been of some influence. 1. Teacher workshops; 2. Hands-on student sessions. 3. Secondary school curriculum input. Teacher workshops have emphasized music as a vehicle to introduce science in the elementary classroom. Hands-on student sessions have included about 20 acoustics experiments of varying degrees of sophistication for students both in high school physics classes and in elementary general science classes. Secondary curriculum input has included both, development of laboratory experiments in acoustics, and exposure to relatively low cost educational versions of computational software. Examples of teacher workshop content, a number of hands-on experiments, and some finite element calculations will be discussed. ¹Musik: Zugang zur Wissenschaft in der Grundschule. Uwe J. Hansen, DAGA 2007, Stuttgart pp. 171-172.