

# Guitar Hero, Rock Band boost the music industry

JOHN LAWRENCE  
Student Life Editor

The *Guitar Hero* and *Rock Band* series has become a huge part of the music industry, helping to promote music while making large profits for those who are involved.

Since its release in November 2005, millions have enjoyed playing the *Guitar Hero* series, enabling them to enact their fantasies of being a rock star from their own living room.

Mimicking the style of *Guitar Hero*, *Rock Band* was released Dec. 18, 2007. *Rock Band* featured not only a guitar, but also a drum set and microphone, which allowed a group to play together at the same time. An additional guitar could be bought allowing the band to also include a bass guitar.

The games success has caught the attention of the music industry, since new songs for the game can be downloaded for \$.99-\$2.50. This is more than most songs cost off of iTunes. The majority of this money goes as royalties to the original musicians and the rest goes to the game developers.

While the games have had success with lots of musicians and non-musicians alike, some people think the games portray an unrealistic view of actually playing instruments.

"I would rather play real guitar," said sophomore

Nick Hebert. "In the amount of time that people spend playing *Guitar Hero* they could easily learn a new instrument."

Others think that the games have had a positive influence on people, developing their musical abilities.

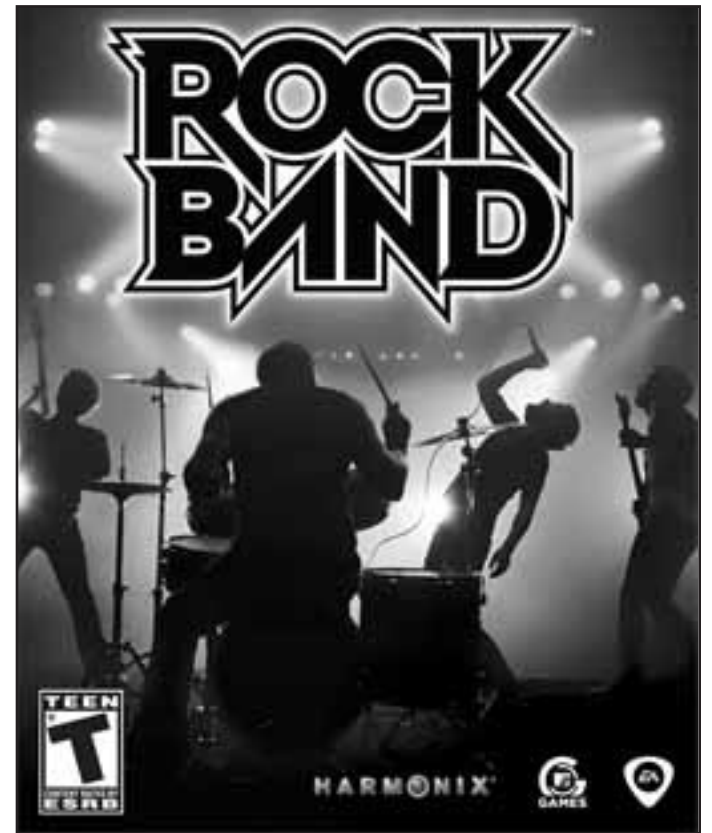
"While the guitar doesn't really resemble an actual guitar, the drums help people keep rhythm," said senior Alex Coffman. "They also let people get together and work as a band."

*Guitar Hero* has recently become a medium for people to hear, create and play songs where players can actually compose their own music.

Whether or not it helps musicians on a technical level, the music industry as a whole is benefiting from the increased attention to songs that may not be as popular as they once were.

"I like being able to download songs online," said senior Alex Brooks. "That way you don't have to buy new games as often. You can pick and choose which songs you want to play and then buy the individual songs."

*Rock Band 2* now boasts they have over 500 playable songs from various artists, many which need to be downloaded online. This provides a plethora of songs available to the player, which gives them the opportunity to play the songs they want to play or expand their musical horizon.



Rock Band, released on Nov. 20, 2007 for the Xbox and Playstation, has since sold more than four million units total.

Courtesy of Wikipedia.org

# BHS makes effort to "Go Green"

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Writer

"Going green" has recently become a popular action to take part in. Major corporations such as Starbucks now promote recycling while commercials inform us on conserving water and energy.

"Going green" is the idea of using energy efficient appliances, conserving water, recycling and improving our everyday living to help our planet. "Going green" is becoming more common as the media is pushing society to change their way of life little by little. Commercials promote recycling, turning off water, and ways that businesses can invest in energy efficient technology.

As society is progressing in the direction of "going green", schools are progressing as well. It is hard to have schools "go green" due to budgets and time. Yet, there are many simple things schools can do to be energy and waste efficient.

Bloomington High School has started with using automatic

sinks, hand dryers and lights in the bathrooms. Appliances such as these conserve energy and water.

And yet, throughout the school students have been throwing their empty plastic bottles into the trash cans.

To fix this, Environmental Club has set up nine recycling bins throughout the school. They are all conveniently located; therefore, recycling bottles should not be an issue.

Principal Tim Moore encourages the mentality of trying to conserve our resources. Mr. Moore said the renovations that are going on throughout the school are aimed towards being energy efficient. A couple of hallways throughout the building have automatic lights that are off until someone walks by them.

Also, Mr. Moore encourages teachers and students to reduce the amount of waste created.

For future renovations of BHS, the idea of conservation is kept in mind.

"Especially in the new cafeteria,

we are going to have the mentality of trying to conserve," said Mr. Moore.

Mrs. Karen Lowery, Environmental Science teacher and Environmental Club sponsor, suggests that the school should turn off the power strips that are constantly left on. The power strips, which provide energy to the computers and other various technologies, are not being used during the time when teachers leave their classroom at the end of the day and return in the morning. That could be about nine to even 12 hours of saving energy.

It is suggested that the lights in the upcoming senior cafeteria may have dimmers, which could make a difference in conserving energy.

Students can take part in helping the green movement at BHS by recycling or even joining Environmental Club.

There are actions that can be taken at home as well. For instant, one could eliminate waste but using re-usable products with which do not require disposing.

Some students are all ready taking their part in "going green".

"I go green by buying environmental friendly products, recycling and taking short showers," said junior Shanna Gasperson, who is a member of the Environmental Club.

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