NOTES FROM MR. BRENNER REGARDING "AUDACITY"

Audacity is a downloadable program that is free and safe and will allow students to record themselves playing or talking into the computer. They can then save their recordings by turning them into MP3 files using this same program.

You can find Audacity and download it from:

http://audacity.sourceforge.net/

Again, this program is FREE AND SAFE. I have used it for a number of years with no problems, and it is available for either Mac or PC.

Use of Audacity is not required, but could be helpful with creating better assessment and instructional time for each class. In the future for grades 7 and 8, students will be asked to record a song or part of one, and then email their recordings to me. These recordings will then be graded as a quiz or test grade.

At this time, I ask that any student with access to the Internet become familiar with this program and have some fun experimenting with it.

Normally, Audacity will save recordings in an "Audacity" project file format (.aup), however Audacity files do not lend themselves to being transmitted via email (they can become corrupt and will not play back for the recipient). This problem can easily be averted by converting the recordings to the more universal MP3 format (.mp3) within the Audacity program.

Once you have finished making a recording in Audacity, open the file menu on the top left-hand corner of the screen, and select "Export as MP3". Pick the directory where you would like to save the file, enter the file name, then select "Save". Upon saving the file, an additional informational box will open up, where you can enter the artist's name, genre, etc. Once you enter any or all of these optional fields, select "OK" and your sound file is now saved in the MP3 format. If you want to keep your Audacity Project File for future use, make sure to save it also in the ".aup" format (open the file menu on the top left-hand corner of the screen, and select "Save".

Before you try to make your first MP3 file, you will also need to download a file from the Internet called "lame_enc.dll". This file is available through a link from the Audacity site above, or you can use the following link….

http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/faq?s=install&item=lame-mp3

Make sure that the file you download is compatible with your operating system (Mac or Windows), and remember where you store this file on your hard drive.

The first time you try to make an MP3 file in Audacity, the program will ask "Would you like to locate lame_enc.dll now?" as part of the MP3 conversion process. When this message appears, select "Yes", go to the location where the file is saved on your hard drive, and select "Open". Once you establish the location of this file with your copy of Audacity this first time, you will not have to perform this step when making future MP3 files.

Any questions, please email me at mailto:sbrenner@mpsd.edu

Mr. Brenner