



72° F,
Partly
cloudy

SunSentinel

Home | News | Broward | **Palm** | Sports | Entertainment | Life | Health | Business | Opinion | Classified |

Public
Notices

Search All content Business listings



Home > News > Boynton Beach

Rock 'n' roll is here to stay at South Tech Academy

Comments 0

Email Share 0

Like 0 Retweet 0

Jan Engoren jengoren@tribune.com

November 6, 2013

South Tech Academy, a vocational high school in **Boynton Beach** that offers academies in culinary arts, graphic design and veterinary assisting has added a new academy – Mark Galbo's Rock and Roll Academy.

Originally created in 2003 by Colorado-based musician and educator, Mark Galbo, the RRA is an innovative, state-of-the-art exploratory music program focusing on music education through the formation of student bands.

Facilitated by teachers and musicians Sandi Hagood and Sarah Blas, students are encouraged to make choices, take ownership of their learning, and develop independence of thought and spirit.

"The schools like the program because it's 21st century learning. We give the kids a sense of ownership and become their ally. When they care, they do well," said Galbo, who runs a similar program in Telluride, Colo.

"Music is a language and you learn to speak that language by playing it," he said. "Music is instant community. As soon as you discard the old notions of learning, the process becomes social and collaborative. Students learn from each other and from listening."

"We create not only music, but teamwork, collaboration and community," Galbo said. "Music is the context to teach children social and emotional learning."

In August, Hagood and James Kidd, South Tech's president, went out to Colorado to visit Galbo and his students.

"The program swept us off our feet," said Hagood, a drummer and music educator who has been with the school district for five years. "The kids have really taken to it and are so excited. They're telling all their friends and we have a full schedule of 160 students enrolled in the program."

"It is rewarding to empower students to take control over their own learning," he said.

On Dec. 14, the class plans to showcase their efforts at **B.B. King** Blues Club in **West Palm Beach**.

"It's not just fun," said Blas, who studied vocal performance at **Florida Atlantic University**. "Students learn social and emotional skills. Many kids are shy or angry in the beginning. By week four, we see them open up. We hope to create not just musicians, but better citizens and

Don't Miss These

better people."

Visit southtechacademy.com or call 561-369-7004. Tickets to the B.B. King Blues Club event are \$5 and are available at the door or by calling the school directly.

Copyright © 2013, [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#)

  Comments 0  Email  Share 0  Like 0