Call Me Maybe Lesson 1/3

Unit or Strand Title: ***Say Hello-Tools to Pro Tools!***
Lesson Title: ***Connecting our MIDI Controllers to Pro Tools***
Focusing Question: ***How can we modify program settings to connect our MIDI controllers to Pro Tools?***
Description: Teacher will begin by reminding students of what they've learned about MIDI as a conduit of musical information transfer between analog and digital mediums. Teacher will then lead students through a step-by-step process of plugging in and connecting their MIDI controllers to Pro Tools by projecting his screen for the class to see and prompting them to repeat what they see on their own computers. Students will finish class by taking a screenshot of Pro Tools recognizing their MIDI controller and uploading it to Blackboard.
Lesson Objectives: - SWBAT define MIDI   - SWBAT plug their intefaces into their computers so that Pro Tools can operate   - SWBAT plug their MIDI controllers into their computers and ensure its proper connection   - SWBAT properly set up and create a new Pro Tools project   - SWBAT access and navigate the top bar of tabs in Pro Tools' GUI   - SWBAT, on their own, connect a MIDI controller to Pro Tools
Specific Content Knowledge: **MIDI**: *Musical Instrument Digital Interface*; a technical standard that describes a communications protocol (coding language) which assists the communication of musical information from analog to digital sources, a type of digital interface, and certain electrical connectors that connect a wide variety of electronic musical instruments, computers, and related audio devices for playing, editing, and recording music.   **MIDI Controller**: Can be in the configuration of a keyboard, a drum-pad array, both, or other; a physical, playable tool that one uses to communicate their musical information to a digital program   **Pro Tools**: a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) program that allows one to produce musical projects through both live/acoustic recordings and MIDI/digital recordings
Standards Addressed: MU.912.F.1.2: Incorporate or adapt new, emerging, or previously unfamiliar technology to create an innovative composition, music project, or related product.
Materials: - MIDI controller   - MIDI controller cord (usually some variation of [blank]-USB)   - Focusrite Scarlett 2i2 Interface   - USB-USBC OR USBC-USBC cord   - Desktop or Laptop computer- Windows or IOS
Artifacts: Students will take a screenshot of Pro Tools recognizing their MIDI controller in the *MIDI Setup* window and will upload it to blackboard as confirmation that they have been successful. Students who have technological troubles will be assisted by teacher until this screenshot can be taken.
Assessment:

Students will be assessed informally by teacher observation of student participation. If students are having trouble getting their MIDI keyboards to connect, teacher will scaffold and assist them until they are successful. Students' indpendent success will not be graded or judged; students gaining the experience of going through all of the correct settings channels and eventually reaching the end goal is what is most valuable here. Students' reaching the lesson's end goal will be documented by uploading a screenshot of Pro Tools recognizing their MIDI controller. This assures accountability, so the teacher knows that each student has gone through all of the steps of connecting their controller.

Procedures:
- Teacher will lead students through a brief recap/discussion about the origins of MIDI as a standardized language for encoding musical data
- Teacher will connect this knowledge to the hardware and software being used in this lesson, spefically how it relates to their MIDI controllers
- Projecting his own screen for all students to see, teacher will prompt studnets to follow along a step-by-step guide with the end goal of connecting one's MIDI controller to Pro Tools; teacher will lead students through:
  - Plugging one end of their USB(C) cord into their interface, and the other end into the computer
  - Plugging one end of their USB cord into the computer, and the other end into their MIDI controller
    - Note that these two steps coming first is imperative, because Pro Tools will not start w/o interface connection, and will not recognize MIDI controller if plugged in after program is started
  - Finding the Pro Tools icon on their desktops, and either double-left-clicking it, or single-right-clicking it and selecting "open"
  - After the "dashboard" screen apears, selecting the "create" tab on lefthand side
  - Typing while the text in the "name:" bar is highlighted, and naming their project "MIDI.Controller.Test.[Last Name]"
  - Operating the four lower drop-down menus to select a WAV file type, a bit depth of 24, and a sample rate of 44.1 kHz, while leaving I/O settings as "last used"
  - Checking the box that says "interleaved" and subsequently clicking the blue "create" buttono on the bottom right of the dashboard
  - Finding the "setup" tab among the top row of tabs
  - Left-clicking the "setup" tab, finding the "Peripherals" button, and clicking it
  - Finding the "MIDI controllers" tab at the top, and clicking it
  - Operating the drop-down menus to choose: the type of controller (teacher will advise students on what type their controller is); the "receive" and "send to" settings, under which students should choose the name of their MIDI controller for both; and the number of channels (if multiple options, choose the highest one)
  - Closing out of the "Peripherals" window by pressing the "OK" button at the bottom right, clicking the "setup" tab once again, finding and hovering over the "MIDI" drop-down, and clicking the "MIDI Input Devices" button
  - Finding their MIDI controller listed, and clicking the box to the left of its name to select it for use
  - Closing out of the "MIDI Input Devices" window by pressing the "OK" button at the bottom right, clicking the "setup" tab once more, and finding and clicking the "Preferences" button
  - Finding and clicking the "MIDI" tab at the top, and clicking it
  - Finding the "Default Thru Instrument" drop-down menu, and clicking it to select the name of their MIDI controller

- o Closing out of the "Preferences" window by pressing the "OK" button at the bottom right
- Students will then, on their own, find the "MIDI Input Devices" button under the "setup" tab, and will confirm that their MIDI controller is recognized by the program
- Students will take a screenshot of this visual confirmation and upload it to blackboard
- Students will find the "file" tab at the top of the program and click the "save" button, before finding the red X button at the top right corner and clicking it to close out Pro Tools for the day