



# Dino Capone's School of Rock

## Childhood Rock and Roll Fantasies

by Judi Burton

“If your kids want to learn Guns N’ Roses, and we teach them *London Bridge Is Falling Down*, they’re never going to commit or have any fun,” said Dino.

We all had a dream as children that we were going to “be somebody.” A baseball star, a ballerina, a movie star, or a lead singer in a band; the future was so clear and nothing was in our way. Gradually, we realized there were few outlets available to actualize these dreams, and that there were so many other kids better than us. Our parents were proud, but not proud enough to say,

“This is what you should do for the rest of your life.” They said things like, “You should be thinking about a profession that will make you money. Find something more realistic.” As time went on, our dreams dwindled into hobbies and our thoughts of stardom morphed into finding the right career. Now, we watch our kids form garage bands, and smile a little, but know, as did our parents, that in time their thoughts of fame will be replaced with a tough skin ready for the business world.

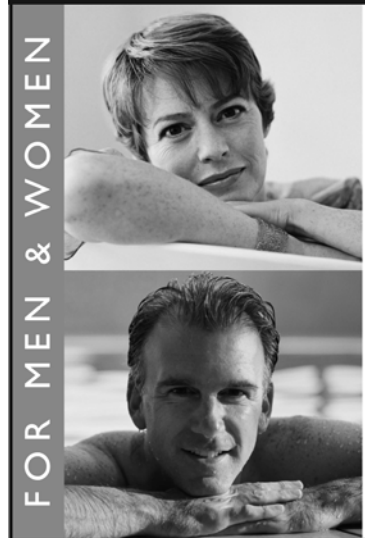
But what if they had something you didn’t have? What if they had the right teacher urging them to do better and instilling in them the skills to become great? Imagine what it would feel like to watch your child on stage in front of thousands of people rocking out with a band.

Dino Capone’s School of Rock off of 501 in Myrtle Beach is making rock and roll fantasies come true. Not only do children learn music, they are able to audition for spots in rock bands that play major venues, including the Hard Rock Cafe, the House of Blues, and Plyler Park on the Boardwalk in Myrtle Beach.

“If you’re a parent who always says your child is only acting out because he/she craves attention, this is the perfect place for him/her,” said Dino, a professional musician (drums and guitar) who has performed with the US Navy Band and attended Berkeley School of Music and Percussion Institute of Technology. “They’ll get more attention than they ever dreamed of and learn how to become a team player as well. The kids who are very shy and don’t talk, learn confidence and self-achievement,” added Dino, who plays in three different bands of his own – the Lazy River Band, the Marsha Morgan Band, and the Well Springs Church Band, which all perform regularly at Plyler Park.

Looking to fill a void during the slow winter months when his bands had fewer gigs, Dino started teaching a couple of kids, and before he knew it, he had 40 in his house every week. “They were all getting really good,” he said. Eventually, Dino called on some of his band buddies

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and built the School of Rock. The children get one-on-one lessons at \$35 an hour, and when they are ready, audition to be in one of the school's three rock bands. The 10-week program of 2½ hours per week class time plus extensive home practice is a serious commitment for the kids. "These kids don't get sick," Dino said. "They drink lots of orange juice every day to make sure they don't." Parents pay in advance for all the band practices to ensure the kids and the adults understand the importance of never missing a day.

Students get to choose to play the drums, guitar, bass guitar, or keyboard, or do vocals, and are taught to read music, music theory and ear training. Blues Traveler, Queen, Led Zeppelin, Metallica and Kiss are some of the choices the kids can play. "If your kids want to learn Guns N' Roses, and we teach them *London Bridge Is Falling Down*, they're never going to commit or have any fun," said Dino.

Currently, Dino Capone is working with Chick-fil-A to put together a scholarship fund for foster children. "I don't know of any other charity where foster kids can get their own instrument and learn a talent, then showcase it in front of thousands of people," said Dino.

For info on classes or upcoming concerts, contact [DinoCaponesSchoolofRock.com](http://DinoCaponesSchoolofRock.com) or call the school at 843-222-7155. The school is located at 4007F Belle Terre Blvd, Myrtle Beach.

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