

WILDOMAR — No electricity? No problem.

Students at Wildomar Elementary School had enough energy to overcome a power outage that delayed the start of a concert by Rockin' the Standards on Thursday evening.

Students who are more likely used to Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers were hopping, dancing and screaming to such rock songs as "Parallel or Perpendicular," "Mean Mode Median" and songs based around numbers six, seven and nine.

Rockin' the Standards puts a rock twist on some familiar tunes.

"Most of these kids have never been to a rock show before. They flip out," band creator and Wildomar Elementary teacher Tim Bedley said before the show. "First they don't know what to do. Then they see teachers jumping around and the principals jumping around and they go berserk."

And go berserk they did. Wearing band T-shirts and waving their arms in the air, children screamed and sang along with the lyrics.

"Six, 12, 18, 24. Thirty, 36. Forty-two and 48. Fifty-four and six-tay" and "synonym, antonym and homonym" were just a few of the words the band belted out to a strong rock beat.

"I think they're awesome," 10-year-old fifth-grader Ally Todaro said. "It's very educational. It helps with math, reading and writing."

Fifth-grader Ginger Brosman, 10, said she enjoyed the encore the most.

"They closed the curtain and everyone screamed when they opened it," Ginger said.

Some in the crowd rushed the stage before the first song, despite the fact that the power outage that hit Southwest County kept the campus in the dark throughout the 11-song performance. A generator was used and the show got under way about 50 minutes late.

The concert was open to the community, and when the 300 tickets for the show were sold, a second performance was added for 8 p.m. Proceeds from the tickets and food sales will go the school's PTA.

The band played songs mostly based on math problems to help children prepare for upcoming state testing.

"The goal is to give the kids a relevant way to remember the state standards through legitimate rock music," Bedley said.

Fifth-grader Emily Anderson, 10, said the tunes help when she takes tests.

"I sing the songs in my head sometimes," Emily said.

Principal Fernando Reyes said the show serves two purposes.

"One is motivation to do their best job on the (state tests) and the other is a culmination of a long teaching process our teachers put in place," he said. "It ties all the pieces together. It's that last bit of charge to do their best."

Emily, Ginger and two friends said they enjoy the music of Rockin' the Standards more than the groups popular with kids their age.

But they said the group did lack in one area.

The Jonas Brothers "are cuter, definitely," said Megan Lammott, 10.

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Wildomar Elementary School students wave their arms in the air to the sounds of the rock band Rockin' the Standards on Thursday. The school's Parent Teacher Association put on the rock 'n' roll test prep concert to help students get ready for California state standards tests. (Photo by Don Boomer - staff photographer)



Wildomar Elementary School students get loud as the rock band Rockin' the Standards took the stage Thursday. (Photo by Don Boomer - staff photographer)