

# **PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE**

### **VOCAL MUSIC**

#### **GRADE 7**

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to analyze, recall, explain, interpret, apply, or evaluate the particular concepts being taught.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Vocal Music in Grade 7 is an elective which offers a continuation of developing skills in good vocal and choral singing techniques and sight-reading of two-part and three-part musical scores. Opportunities are provided for group and solo performance. A wide variety of styles of music literature are explored. Some of the course goals are to develop a musical literacy, explore and develop the voice and explore and develop skills using computer music software. **The 7th Grade Vocal Music / Chorus student continues to develop independent musicianship and vocal skills as the students enter a major phase of voice change. The changing voice characteristics include pitch-matching difficulties and a spoken tone for the boys as their range begins its dramatic drop. Along with the voice change the boys are assigned a part of their own for the first time. The girls experience a thinning tone quality and decreased range during this time. Exercises are used to re-establish vocal control during this difficult time as a singer.** Students meet every day for 12 weeks and can participate throughout the school year for full chorus ensemble. The chorus students serve the community by performing at a local nursing home and another performance venue during the holidays and springtime.

#### **STUDY SKILLS:**

- Maintain an organized binder
- Adequately prepare for assessments through the development of study skills.

#### **MAJOR UNIT THEMES**

##### **Vocal Technique and Solo Performance**

- Develop independent musicianship and vocal skills as the students enter a major phase of voice change. Changing voice characteristics include pitch-matching difficulties and a spoken tone for the boys as their range begins its dramatic drop and a thinning tone quality & decreased range for the girls during this time.
- Daily vocalizes & exercises applicable to the changing voice, choral practice and performance literature and CD accompaniment to practice at home.
- Proper posture and body position, proper diaphragmatic breathing, proper vocal embouchure, & proper tone production.
- Vocal tone with varying degrees of pitch, dynamics, timbre, duration, and vibrato which are stylistically appropriate to the selected repertoire.
- Opportunities for solo performance based on the practice and performance literature are also a part of this unit (and course).

- Students are encouraged to use these exercises and the programmed choral literature to practice in class and at home with the provided CD accompaniments.

### **Reading and Writing Music**

- Introduce (at a middle school level) and review basic reading and writing skills in music. These fundamental life skills will be applied to basic piano performance, basic vocal performance, computer composition, and other analysis activities.
- Introduce (at a middle school level) pitch identification in the treble and bass clefs through a variety of activities that may include flashcards, worksheets, and actual application through vocal, piano, computer, and analysis activities.
- Introduce (at a middle school) basic rhythm and counting skills through a variety of activities that also may include flashcards, worksheets, and actual application through vocal, piano, computer, and analysis activities. This unit will also focus on beat, tempo, time signature, intervals, and musical terminology.
- Interpret a time signature, key signature, tempo indications, and other expressive music terms relating to style and expression.
- Students are encouraged to complete all in class assignments & homework assignments to build their knowledge & tools for this spiral curriculum.

### **Piano**

- This unit will introduce basic two-hand keyboard skills.
- Introduce posture, hand position, & fingering; a review of melodic & harmonic intervals, and an introduction of the 3 Primary Triads in the key of C Major.
- Piano performance outside of C Major Hand Position and application of pivot technique.
- Students will continue piano progress based on individual ability levels. There will be various enrichment and remedial opportunities. Some of the other topics of the unit are: multi-timbral keyboard instruments chord charts and chord progressions.

### **Music Technology**

- Evaluate student performances through computer software recording of their vocal or piano performances.
- Work with MIDI multi-timbral keyboard instruments.
- Explore and create original compositions using current computer software for a variety of music making purposes.
- Experiment with improvisation with teacher prepared chord progressions and accompaniments.
- Computer software in the unit can be used for a variety of other purposes that may include the basics of recording arts (Garage Band Software or other software), enrichment work (Garage Band Software or Finale Notation Software) and remedial work on reading and writing fundamentals (Music Ace Software or other).

### **Fundamentals of Ensemble Singing**

- Addressing of the initial changes in the male and female voice, unison singing, 2-part singing, and the beginning of 3-part intervallic singing.
- Reading of clefs, pitch & rhythm notation, expression, and style.

- Reading of key signatures & tonalities and music terminology & symbols (tempo, dynamic, articulation, and dynamic terms & symbols).
- Rhythmic concepts of beat, tempo, accent, syncopation, simple & complex meter, accelerando & ritardando and other.
- Melodic concepts of call & response (echo), rhythmic speech (speech-song), intervals, articulation, phrasing, contour, sequence, diatonic, chromatic, blue notes, glissando, portamento, and other.
- Harmony concepts of such as consonance, dissonance, major, minor, augmented, diminished, and blues chords and keys and other.
- Expressive terms and variations in expressive performance are addressed in this unit in conjunction with the selected choral literature.
- A variety of textures and forms are also studied in this unit within the programmed choral literature.

### **Music Theater and Patriotic Singing**

- Explore vocal basics and the individual uniqueness of the human voice.
- Patriotic singing and the learning the national anthem will be a warm up activity for this unit
- Explore & discuss the basic vocal ranges of Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone/ Bass voice will be discussed as well as head voice and chest voice singing.
- Explore & analyze the artistic elements of American Music Theater (singing, dancing, acting, costumes, set design, etc...).
- Create a music theater scene.

### **Music History and Culture**

- Composers, styles, and historical periods associated with the programmed choral literature.
- Historical and/or cultural aspects (outside of music) political events, trends, fashions and other social context associated with the programmed choral literature.

### **MATERIALS**

- Textbook: Essential Elements of Sight Singing Volume 1
- Selected Choral Literature

Revised September 2014