

CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

Comprehensive Music - Grade 8

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

READING & WRITING MUSIC

- Reintroduce 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.
- Review 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.
- Review 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.

BASIC PIANO

- This unit will build on the basic two-hand keyboard skills developed in 7th Grade Comprehensive Music.
- Review of posture, hand position, & fingering; a review of melodic & harmonic intervals, and a review 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 and chord progressions.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

- Work with MIDI multi-timbral keyboard instruments.
- Explore and create original compositions using current computer software for a variety of music making purposes.
- Evaluate student performances through recording of their piano or vocal performances and evaluate these performances.
- 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).

JAZZ

- Explore the various styles of jazz music (dixieland, big band, bebop, cool, progressive, etc...) through listening, watching, reading, responding, and discussing. This unit will consist of a variety of readings with related questions and a variety of listening and listening/viewing experiences in the area of jazz music.
- Comparisons (and contrasts) of the many genres within this genre of American Music will be discussed. The roots of jazz music in blues music (a topic of 7th Grade Comprehensive Music) will be discussed. One of the major goals of this unit is: an understanding of "America's Classical Music": Jazz - its origins and elements.
- Define and discuss: improvisation, chord changes, break, riff, call & response, and other terms specific to this genre of music.
- Identify & discuss major composers within this genre and some of the major works of art within this genre.

MUSIC THEATER & 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 (review this 7th Grade Comprehensive Music topic).
- 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 elements of American Music Theater.
- Create a music theater scene.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

- Explore & Analyze the various periods of classical art music's evolution from the 1600's to present day.
- Compare & contrast trends in these historic periods across the arts (visual art and architecture).
- Define and discuss: baroque, classical, romantic, impressionistic, symphony, symphony orchestra, concerto, opera, and other terms specific to this genre of music.
- Identify & discuss major composers within this genre and some of the major works of art within this genre.

POP/FOLK/WORLD MUSIC

- Explore, discuss, & analyze the history of pop music from the birth of rock 'n' roll, with a small portion devoted to folk music, and world music.
- Time will be spent covering the decades of rock 'n' roll music: the 50's, the 60's, the 70's, the 80's, and the 90's to present day.
- Discuss how rock 'n' roll music fits within the history of American Popular Music, American Folk Music, Jazz Music, Blues Music and World Music.
- Identify & discuss major creators & performers within this genre and some of the major works of art within this genre.

Textbook: Alfred's Piano Method