
Activities for a Musical Mind

* FOR CHORUS AND GRACE NOTES *

Each week, please choose from the tasks in the grid below to submit for Chorus/Grace Notes assignments.

Students in both ensembles only have to complete one set per week.

Assignments have been modified to provide for the best distance learning opportunities of all students.

If you have any questions feel free to email Mr. Hart at nhart@rsd.k12us.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Complete the tasks you have chosen one at a time. You must choose **TWO** tasks each week (one for the weeks around spring break – which you may submit both the week we get back).

Please submit all responses by email and do not send two separate emails. Please put in the subject line your name and the assignments you completed for the week, so for example Nathan Hart #8 and #23.

All assignments should be submitted by 4:00PM on FRIDAY of each week. Work can be submitted as you get it done – you don't have to wait until Friday to submit your work.

Tasks with a * can be done without internet access. Simply write your answers to the reflection questions on a piece of paper to submit per district instructions. Tasks with a # can be repeated a second time with a different piece of music or different person, depending on the activity.

As I explore more materials, I will post alternate options in some of my lesson plans, but this is a great start with plenty of options thanks to my friends Mr. Rozell and Mr. Surovchak at Belle Vernon School District!!

	Directions	Reflection Questions
	Find a song or piece of music that expresses your current mood and listen to it twice. Let the music wash over you – listen for something you've never heard before.	What piece did you pick? Why? Did you notice anything new about the piece?

		How did your mood change after you listened to it?
	Interview an older family member or friend about a song that was special to them when they were your age. Let them tell you about their memories associated with the song.	What song did the person pick? Why? Did you like the song when you listened to it? Explain your answer.
	Fill a few glasses with water and use a pencil or a spoon to compose a song. (Please be careful!)	What challenges and successes did you have with this project?
	The composer John Cage “wrote” a piece of music called 4’33”. It was all SILENCE! What’s the point? No matter where the piece is performed, the audience always hears something different. Your task is to find a location in your house to sit silently for one minute. Take note of what you hear. (The dog barking, the air conditioner, etc.) Repeat the exercise in a second location.	Which locations did you choose? What did you hear in each location? Was it hard for you to sit silently for one minute? Describe what you learned from this exercise.
	Visit https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note . Adjust the settings to clefs and range that are comfortable for you, yet give you a little bit of a challenge. Your goal is to correctly identify 25 notes!	How long did it take you to identify the notes correctly? What settings did you use?
	Watch “Music As A Language – Victor Wooten” Here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yRMbH36HRE	Do you agree that music is a language? Explain. What was your first word? (If you know, ask!) What is your biggest take away from the video? Bonus: What song was he playing? How do you think about his interpretation of music?

Watch this TED Talk by Eric Whitacre: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NENIXsW4pM	What surprised you about this TED Talk? What challenges do you think they faced in creating a virtual choir? What meaning does this bring to you during this time of quarantine?
COMPOSER IN ACTION! Watch Rock/Pop Superstar Ben Folds compose a song for full orchestra in just 10 minutes here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BytUY_AwTUs *STRONGLY RECOMMEND!	What surprised you about this? How did you feel watching this video? Critically listen to the final product. What did you NOTICE? Did you like it? Explain.
Choose your own critical listening! Listen to a song you've never heard before. Write down a few thoughts, then listen to it a second time.	What song did you choose? What did you notice? How did it make you feel? Complete the sentence: "I Wonder..."
Learn how to do part (or all!) of <i>The Cup Song</i>. You can watch the video of the song on Anna Kendrick VEVO Here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmSbXsFE3l8	How did it go? Tell me about your experience! On a scale 1-3, how would you rate your Cup Song Skills? Why?
Think about movies you have seen. If you have their soundtracks available, pick a few to listen to today, and choose a favorite.	What movie did you choose? What makes the soundtrack special to you? How does the music progress the story?
Watch this video of Bobby McFerrin and sing along! Then get someone else at home with you to join you and do it a second time! https://www.ted.com/talks/bobby_mcferrin_watch_me_play_the_audience/up-next	Tell me about your experience singing along with the video. Who did you sing up with? What did that person think?
Pick 20 minutes today to only speak to people by singing!	What was the reaction of the person you sang to?

		spoke to? Tell me about your experience.
	Watch this video of Reggie Watts – hang in there through the first few minutes. It’s a farce...supposed to be funny. ☺ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdHK_r9RXTc *STRONGLY RECOMMEND (JUST HANG IN THERE TO THE END) ☺	What did you like about this video? What confused you? What did you think “instruments”?
	Create an instrument with household items that can play three or more different sounds.	Describe your instrument. What did you use? How did it work? Tell me about the creation process.
	Find a book laying around your house. Read a chapter out loud to someone else, but do it while singing!	What book did you choose? What was your reaction of the person you interacted with?
	Listen to these two versions of Adele’s <i>Send My Love</i>. Compare and contrast! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nz7SMVYMT6k https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk4BbF7B29w	Which did you like better? Find something positive to say about both!
	Journal Entry – Think about your all-time favorite song. If you have several, just pick one of them. Then, answer the questions that follow.	What song did you choose? Why? What makes it special to you? What memories do you have associated with this song?
	Ask someone in your family how to do a critical listening with you! Pick a song for the two of you to listen to and then discuss the following five points.	What piece did you choose? What did you notice? How did it make you feel? What do you wonder about this piece? What do you think the composer/poet was trying to communicate?
	People use music to persuade the thinking of others. Change the lyrics to a simple song like <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i> to try to persuade someone in your family. For example, sing those lyrics to someone to help you clean your room or make a suggestion of what should be	What was your persuasive goal? What did you want? Type your lyrics in the space below.

	cooked for dinner!	
	Find out who wrote the SCORE for your favorite movie or video game. Then, do some research and learn ten facts about that person.	Which composer did you choose? What did you learn about him/her?
	Listen to a piece of music or a song that someone else has chosen for you. Go through the critical listening process for that song, and tell me about your experience!	What piece did you choose? What did you notice? How did it make you feel? What do you wonder about this piece? What do you think the composer/poet was trying to communicate?
	Interview a family member or friend about their musical life. Did they have music class in school? Did they play an instrument, sing in chorus, or do the musicals? What was their experience like? Are they still involved in anything music related?	Who did you interview? What did you learn about that person? Write 5-7 sentences to tell me about your conversation.
	Watch a musical on DVD or through your favorite streaming platform!	What musical did you watch? What was your favorite song from the film? Tell me what you liked and didn't like about the performance.
	Write five measures of simple rhythms and teach them to a family member. Then, perform your rhythms using household items! Remember to use the following notes and/or rests: Eighth, Quarter, Half, Dotted Half, and Whole.	In 5-7 sentences, tell me about your experience. What kind of rhythms did you write? What did you teach? Was it easy or challenging to perform together?
	Find videos online of your favorite choral pieces! Sing along if you know/remember the words!	What piece(s) did you listen to? If the song(s) are ones that you have performed before, did you remember the words or notes? Tell me about your experience.
	Listen to a piece of music that has no words. (Use a CD from around your house, or check out an instrumental playlist on your favorite music streaming platform.) Listen to the piece	What piece did you choose? What did you draw or write about? What musical

three or four times, and draw or write a story about whatever comes to your mind as you listen to it. Once you finish your drawing, identify what musical elements inspired you to draw what you did.	elements in the music inspired you or draw what you did?
What is the soundtrack of your life? Have you ever thought about it?	Write three or four sentences on what you like and dislike. What motivates you? What type of music would you use to describe yourself? Then: Select between five and eight songs and give the reason why you think they would fit into the soundtrack of your life. Let the music guide you through this project.
People use music to persuade thinking and behavior. One example of this in popular music is the song “We Are The World. Listen to the same piece performed by three different groups of people. 1985-USA for Africa: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9BNoNFKCBI 2010-We are the World 25 for Haiti: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Glny4jSciVI 2019-Broadway United: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdnteHS9bnY	Compare and contrast the videos you watched. What was similar? What was different? Did you recognize any of the performers? If so, who? Finally, which video do you prefer? Why?
Have a family Lip Sync Battle! Get together with some family members and choose a song that you can have fun with. Learn the words and add some fun choreography. Then perform it! (Feel free to share a video of your performance with me if you’d like to!)	
“Cover” lesson. Pick any piece of music performed by the original artist and find a cover of the same song and compare it to the original. Two options of responding: answer the questions to the right, or create your own cover of the piece. Be creative! Feel free to use an instrument other than your own voice or band instrument :)	What’s the name of the song and what versions (artists) did you choose? What are the major differences between the two? Which do you like better and why? If you were to perform this, how would you perform it differently?