



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Course Overview



7605  
*General Music 6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

**General Information**

Credits: N/A  
Weighted: N/A  
Prerequisite: N/A

Length: Semester  
Format: Every Other Day  
Grade: 6th

**Course Description**

General Music classes meet for one semester, every other day, alternating between the music classroom and the piano keyboard lab. Students are introduced to the fundamentals of piano technique, vocal technique, note reading, solfeggio and the instruments of the orchestra. Areas of instruction include beginning level music literacy, keyboard performance skills and in depth exposure to the instruments of the orchestra via videos, recordings and live demonstrations.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- Locate the white keys on the piano by name.
- Identify the notes on the treble and bass clef staves.
- Sing solfeggio syllables, do-sol, in treble clef.
- Identify and perform basic rhythms from notation.
- Perform basic music notation on the keyboard using both hands.
- Identify the instruments of the orchestra by sight and sound.
- Describe the size/pitch relationship between instruments.
- Describe the unique characteristics of each family of the orchestra according to their method of sound production.
- Demonstrate proper posture and techniques for vocal production.

**Common Assessments:**

**Instruments of the Orchestra**

1. String (1<sup>st</sup> MP)
2. Brass (1<sup>st</sup> MP)
3. Woodwind (2<sup>nd</sup> MP)
4. Percussion (2<sup>nd</sup> MP)
5. Final exam (weighted 2x)

**Note Identification Quizzes**

- #1: Treble Clef (1<sup>st</sup> MP)
- #2: Bass Clef (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> MP)

**Major Units of Study:**

**Note Reading / Solfeggio** (syllable singing)

- Students are introduced to the notes on the treble and bass clefs and practice by using note identification worksheets and reading music in the keyboard lab.
- Note reading is an ongoing activity throughout all levels of the music program.
- Students learn the rhythmic values of notes and perform them on the keyboard or on classroom instruments.
- The *Patterns of Sound* book is used to teach the solfeggio syllables (do, re, mi...) and their locations on the staff.

### **Piano Instruction**

- Each student is assigned an individual electronic piano keyboard.
- The teacher is able to monitor and interact via the teacher's station.
- Students are guided by the teacher and work from books individually tailored to their level.
- The piano lab has the flexibility to have students practice alone, in pairs, in small groups or as an entire class through the use of headphones and microphones.

### **Instruments of the Orchestra**

- The string, brass, woodwind, and percussion families of the orchestra are explored in detail.
- Each family is introduced with a video featuring the principal players of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London.
- Students fill out a worksheet that becomes their study guide.
- Following the video, the teacher brings in the instruments for the students to experience. When possible, the instruments are demonstrated live by the teacher or the students.

### **Vocal Instruction**

- Students are taught vocal warm-ups and proper vocal technique in the music classroom.
- The *Patterns of Sound* textbook is used to build a strong tonal center using solfeggio.
- *The Music Connection* has many multicultural pieces to sing and provides opportunities to sing in languages other than English. For some pieces, the classroom instruments add texture and an added level of difficulty to the compositions.

### **Materials & Texts**

- *The Music Connection*, 2000 Silver Burdett Ginn Inc. (textbook and CDs)
- *Patterns of Sound*, by Joyce Bacak & Emily Crocker (solfeggio textbook)
- *Discovering the Orchestra*, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London (videos)
- Alfred's Basic Piano Library, multiple levels
- Piano Library, a varied collection of piano music at multiple levels
- 24 Korg K61 MIDI Studio Controller Keyboards
- Yamaha MLC-100, Music Laboratory System
- Xylophones, Metallophones, General Music Percussion