



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



7704
General Music 7th Grade

General Information

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

Length: Marking Period
Format: Every Day
Grade: 7th

Course Description

General Music classes meet for one marking period, every day, alternating between the music classroom and the piano keyboard lab. Students continue their study of piano technique, vocal technique, and note reading. Areas of instruction include three main units: rhythm, melody, and music theory.

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.
- Notate and perform basic rhythms.
- Perform basic music notation on the keyboard using both hands.
- Demonstrate proper posture and techniques for vocal production.
- Create a simple melody using the pentatonic scale.
- Understand the difference between major, minor and pentatonic scales.
- Identify melodic and harmonic intervals and the attributes of step, leap and repeat motions within a melody.
- Use vocabulary to describe rhythm and melody, the two most prominent elements of music.

Common Assessments:

Vocabulary Quizzes

Rhythm: (1st half of MP)

Melody: (2nd Half of MP)

Note Identification Quizzes

#1: Treble Clef (1st half of MP)

#2: Bass Clef (middle of MP)

Rhythm Complex

Individual Performance / Group Performance: (1st half of MP)

Music Theory Final

Weighted twice: (end of course)

Major Units of Study:

Rhythm Complex

- Rhythm concepts and vocabulary are introduced with a video from *The Elements of Music*.
- Students practice rhythms on percussion instruments, clapping or on the piano keyboard.
- Students are assigned to small groups (4-6) to create an African Rhythm complex.

- Each composition may include rhythms that are regular, random, dependent and independent in accordance to the parameters of the assignment.
- Once the composition has been approved by the teacher, the students use non-pitched percussion instruments to practice and perform the complex.
- The complex is performed with a piece of music from the textbook, usually *Elegua*.

Melody / Music Theory

- Melody concepts and vocabulary are introduced with a video from *The Elements of Music*.
- Using songs from the textbook, students analyze melodies for their interval content and the type of motions between notes (step, leap, or repeat). They learn what makes some melodies easier or harder to perform.
- Students learn the difference between whole steps and half steps and are able to show examples of each on the keyboard.
- Students are able to find sharps and flats on the keyboard and name their enharmonic equivalents ($G\# = Ab$).
- Students learn to manipulate the formulas for major and minor scales to find the sharps or flats (key signatures) for any scale.
- Students learn to take any major scale and transform it into a pentatonic scale by omitting notes from the major scale formula.
- Using either the piano or pitched percussion instruments, students use the pentatonic scale to create and perform a simple melody.

Note Reading

- 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.

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.

Vocal Instruction

- Students are taught vocal warm-ups and proper vocal technique in the music classroom.
- *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)
- *The Elements of Music*, 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