Grade 6 Orchestra Foundations - Unit 2 - Musical Literacy

Unit Focus

This unit focuses on the foundations of musical literacy, including staff and rhythmic notation, the piano keyboard, and the associated terminology. In this unit, students build the connection between musical literacy and how it relates to playing an instrument.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts Standards
General Music: 6

- Explain how understanding the structure and the elements of music are used in music selected for performance. (MU:Pr4.2.6.a)
- When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch, articulation, and dynamics. (MU:Pr4.2.6.b)

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- Inquiry: Posing, pursuing, and refining significant questions to deepen understanding about a topic or issue. (POG.1.1)
- Analyzing: Examining information/data/evidence from multiple sources to identify possible underlying assumptions, patterns, and relationships in order to make inferences. (POG. 1.2)

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...
T1 Develop and refine techniques and skills through purposeful practice and application to become more fluent

Meaning

Understanding(s)

Students will understand that...
U1 reading and interpreting rhythm and music notation are foundational skills for playing an instrument successfully.
U2 the piano keyboard has a basic structural pattern of whole steps and half steps.
U3 the beat is the pulse of the music, and the subdivision of a beat is variable depending on the note/rest value.
U4 artists improve the quality of a performance through a cycle of deliberate practice and examination of results.

Essential Question(s)

Students will keep considering...
Q1 How did it go / how did it turn out so far? How does it measure up to the established criteria? What is important to focus on next?
Q2 How does knowing more about the topic change or deepen my understanding?
Q3 What (skill/technique) am I focusing on? How do I get better at this? How do I know I'm making progress?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...
K1 rhythmic notation and subdivision.
K2 the names of the notes on the lines and spaces of the staff, the ledger lines above and below the staff, as related to their instrument's clef.
K3 the relationship between the black keys and the white keys on the piano.
K4 the following vocabulary: staff, treble clef, alto clef, bass clef, time signature, key signature, space notes, line notes, ledger lines, musical alphabet, whole notes/rests, half notes/rests, quarter notes/rests, eighth notes/rests, dotted half notes/rests, dotted quarter notes/rests, sixteenth notes/rests, multi-measure rests, black keys, white keys, half steps, whole steps, fingerings, enharmonics, octaves, scale(s)

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 counting and clapping subdivisions of the beat with correct syllables.
S2 note reading fluency.
S3 identifying the parts of the staff, using the proper terminology.
S4 connecting the musical notation on the staff to the proper string and fingerings on the instrument
S5 following a structure for practicing efficiently.