Grade 7/8 Orchestra Ensemble - Unit 1 - Musical Literacy

Unit Focus

Welcome to 7/8 Orchestra! Being a part of an ensemble teaches responsibility and teamwork. Orchestra also provides a nurturing environment which can help students build confidence — an important trait that is useful throughout life.

In this first 7/8 orchestra unit, students will continue to develop their musicianship through playing their instrument, and applying the elements of staff and rhythmic notation that were taught in Grade 6. Through a progressive curriculum, our Polson musicians will learn and apply more complex concepts to those learned in the foundational curriculum.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts Standards
General Music: 7

- When analyzing selected music, read and identify by name or function standard symbols for rhythm, pitch articulation, dynamics, tempo, and form. (MU:Pr4.2.7.b)
- Music Traditional and Emerging Ensembles: Novice Demonstrate, using music reading skills where appropriate, how knowledge of formal aspects in musical works inform prepared or improvised performances. (MU:Pr4.2.E.5a)
- Demonstrate attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music. (MU:Pr6.1.E.5a)
- Demonstrate an awareness of the context of the music through prepared and improvised performances. (MU:Pr6.1.E.5b)

Madison Public Schools Profile of a Graduate

- 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,

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
T2 Make appropriate choices as a responsible, respectful participant within a communal artistic experience

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 beat is the pulse of the music, and the subdivision of a beat is variable depending on the note/rest value
U3 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 What am I learning by engaging in critique?
Q2 What am I seeing/feeling in this piece? What inferences can I make?
Q3 How does knowing more about the topic change or deepen my understanding?
Q4 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 expanded rhythmic notation and subdivision, in both simple and compound meters.
K2 that a major scale is a pattern of half steps and whole steps.
K3 that accidentals change the fundamental pitch.

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 counting and clapping subdivisions of the beat with correct syllables.
S2 constructing major and minor scales, with the correct half and whole step patterns

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings		
patterns, and relationships in order to make inferences. (POG. 1.2)	**K4** a key signature summarizes the tonal center of a piece of music. **K5** Vocabulary: major scale, minor scale, relative minor, enharmonic, whole step, half step, multi-measure rests, accidental, sharp, flat, natural, sixteenth notes & rests, dotted half notes/rests, dotted quarter notes/rests, dotted 8th/16th notes/rests.	**S3** interpreting and synthesizing the information displayed in a key signature. **S4** following a structure for practicing efficiently. **S5** Shifting in and out of 1st position to aid in playing a larger range of notes and allowing for more fluid musical lines. **S6** preparing and performing a piece of solo repertoire that is level appropriate