Grade 9-12 Intro to Music Technology - Unit 1 - Navigating the DAW Software

Unit Focus

This course is a one trimester elective designed to provide Daniel Hand High School students with a comprehensive understanding of music production and technology using the popular digital audio workstation (DAW) software, GarageBand. This hands-on course is tailored for students of all levels and aims to empower students with the skills and knowledge necessary to create, record, edit, and produce their own music compositions. In this first unit, students will learn how to navigate the basics of the GarageBand software and create their own beats and loops.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts Standards
Music Technology: HS Proficient

- Select melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic ideas to develop into a larger work using digital tools and resources. (MU:Cr2.1.T.HSI.a)
- Share compositions or improvisations that demonstrate a proficient level of musical and technological craftsmanship as well as the use of digital tools and resources in developing and organizing musical ideas. (MU:Cr3.2.T.HSI.a)
- Describe how context, structural aspects of the music, and digital media/tools inform prepared and improvised performances. (MU:Pr4.2.T.HSI.a)
- Cite reasons for choosing music based on the use of the elements of music, digital and electronic aspects, and connections to interest or purpose. (MU:Re7.I.T.HSI.a)

Madison Public Schools Profile of a Graduate

- Design: Engaging in a process to refine a product for an intended audience and purpose. (POG.2.2)
- Decision Making: Make responsible decisions, based on potential outcomes. (POG.4.2)

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
T2 Capture the feeling or emotional response which an artistic piece elicits

Meaning

Understanding(s)

Students will understand that...
U1 technology is a useful tool for learning about and organizing sound.
U2 music can be arranged through digital means.
U3 digital audio creation is the layering of different sounds and instruments working together.
U4 GarageBand is a digital audio workstation (DAW) software program.
U5 audio choices have a direct effect on emotional response to a visual medium.

Essential Question(s)

Students will keep considering...
Q1 What inspires me? Where do I get my ideas from?
Q2 How much freedom do I have to be creative and also work within established criteria?
Q3 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?
Q4 How does knowing more about the topic change or deepen my understanding?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...
K1 how to navigate the loops library in GarageBand.
K2 the process for utilizing loops and beats in a DAW program.
K3 basic navigation of a DAW software.
K4 how to add beats and loop them in a DAW software program.
K5 basic rhythms, as they relate to a steady beat.

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 using loops to create a musical composition.
S2 recording in the DAW software.
S3 audio/visual synchronization.
S4 layering multiple tracks that make musical sense.
S5 basic automation and editing in the DAW software.
S6 scoring a short film.