Grade 7/8 Chorus - Unit 1 - Vocal Technique

Unit Focus

This first unit will be a continuation of singing, while focusing on intermediate skills related to breathing, sound quality, posture and intonation. Students will learn and utilize harmonic & unison warmups and exercises that focus on vocal development through solfege and neutral syllables.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts Standards
General Music: 7

- Identify and apply collaboratively-developed criteria (such as demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, and interest) to rehearse, refine, and determine when the music is ready to perform. (MU:Pr5.1.7.a)

Music Traditional and Emerging Ensembles: Novice

- Select varied repertoire to study based on interest, music reading skills (where appropriate), an understanding of the structure of the music, context, and the technical skill of the individual or ensemble. (MU:Pr4.1.E.5a)
- 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)
- Use self-reflection and peer feedback to refine individual and ensemble performances of a varied repertoire of music. (MU:Pr5.3.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)

Madison Public Schools Profile of a Graduate

- Collective Intelligence: Working respectfully and responsibly with others, exchanging and evaluating ideas to achieve a common objective. (POG.3.1)
- Self-Awareness: Examining current performance critically to identify steps/ strategies to persist. (POG.4.1)

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 proper singing utilizes both your mouth for vocalizing, and your ear for listening.
U2 following a rehearsal routine aids in the successful development as a musician.
U3 musicians evaluate and refine their work through persistence and application of appropriate criteria.

Essential Question(s)

Students will keep considering...
Q1 What (skill/technique) am I focusing on? How do I get better at this? How do I know I'm making progress?
Q2 K-3: What does quality look/feel/ sound like? 4-12: What are the established conventions of the art form/genre/style? What is the impact of those conventions on the piece?
Q3 How do musicians improve the quality of their creative work?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...
K1 proper voice ranges for soprano, alto and baritone.
K2 the difference between the head voice and chest voice.
K3 vocalists are constantly building their instruments through the way they align their bodies, sitting or standing.
K4 proper diction includes the clarity and precision that a singer uses to articulate lyrics with consonants and vowels.
K5 the following vocabulary: posture, breath support, tone quality, diction, head voice, chest voice, solfege syllables.

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 singing in both head voice and chest voice with accurate pitch.
S2 demonstrating proper diaphragmatic breathing.
S3 proper diction with consonants and vowels.
S4 demonstrating the ability to perform short musical examples including step wise patterns.
S5 sight-reading in keys of C, F, G, D & Bb within an 8 note range.