

LCCS Third Grade Music Curriculum Overview

Month	Unit
September-December	Unit 1:
December- March	Unit 2:
March- June	Unit 3:

Unit 1:

At a Glance: Students learn that melodies and rhythms can be notated in iconic or standardized ways, most commonly with a clef on a five-line staff where note placement shows pitch and rhythm notation shows the number of sounds per beat. They explore how form organizes musical ideas into patterns that connect thoughts and emotions, and how expressive elements such as dynamics, tempo, and articulation shape meaning, creating moods, memories, and shared experiences for listeners. Through singing, instrument study, and listening, they discover that music communicates stories, emotions, and cultural traditions, and that notation, form, and expression work together to help performers and audiences connect with musical ideas.

Timeline:

12 Lessons

Unit 2:

At a Glance: Students learn that both rhythm and melody can be notated in iconic or standardized ways, with rhythm notation showing the number of sounds per beat and melodic notation using a clef on the staff to indicate pitch. They explore how music communicates cultural and historical meaning, such as through songs like *We Shall Overcome*, which express shared human experiences. They also study how composers use expressive elements—tempo, dynamics, articulation, and other devices—to adapt, invent, and communicate ideas, and how performers make choices based on notation, context, and expression. Through these studies, students understand that music is both a structured system and a form of creative expression, helping connect performers and listeners across time, place, and culture.

Timeline:

12 Lessons

Unit 3:

At a Glance: Students learn that melodies and rhythms can be notated in iconic or standardized ways, most often on a five-line staff where clefs,

notes, and symbols indicate pitch and rhythm. They explore how music communicates meaning through cultural and historical context, showing how performance can help us understand people, places, and time periods. They also study how expressive elements such as dynamics, tempo, and articulation shape the way music is created, performed, and experienced, while recognizing that personal taste may differ from a composer's or performer's intent. By examining form and genre, students see how musical ideas are organized into patterns and styles, reflecting both artistic choices and cultural traditions. Ultimately, they discover that music impacts life by connecting us to stories, emotions, cultures, and each other.

Timeline:

12 Lessons