

LCCS 4th Grade Music Curriculum Overview

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

Unit 1:

At a Glance: Students explore the many ways they can participate in the world of music—as performers, composers, listeners, and cultural contributors—recognizing that each person can have an impact through learning instruments, engaging with music technology, or sharing music with others. They learn that notation allows music to be read and performed across different instruments, with clefs indicating pitch ranges and rhythms showing the number of sounds per beat. Students also discover how music communicates emotions, ideas, and stories, as composers use expressive elements like tempo, dynamics, and articulation to shape audience response. Through activities with treble and bass clef literacy, rhythm dictation, listening, and performance, students see how form organizes musical thoughts and ideas and how composition provides opportunities for both individual creativity and collaboration. Ultimately, they come to understand that music is both a system of structure and a tool for expression, connecting people across time, culture, and experience.

Timeline:

12 Lessons

Unit 2:

At a Glance: Students learn that music can be used to express emotions, ideas, and stories through the thoughtful use of expressive elements like tempo, dynamics, and mood. They explore how rhythm and melody work together in composition, understanding that the creative process allows for both individual expression and collaboration. They also study how notation communicates musical ideas, recognizing how treble and bass clefs organize pitch ranges and how rhythms are represented with standardized symbols. Finally, students practice how to listen, assess, and critique performances, considering the composer’s intent, cultural context, and the performers’ use of expressive elements. Altogether, they discover that music is both a system of structure and a form of expression that connects performers, listeners, and communities.

Timeline:

12 Lessons

Unit 3:

At a Glance: Students learn that music can be notated in different ways for different instruments, with clefs showing pitch ranges and rhythms showing the number of sounds per beat. They explore how composers use expressive elements to communicate emotions, ideas, and stories, and how the compositional process allows for both individual creativity and collaboration. Through performing and listening, they discover that music reflects culture, history, and genre, helping us understand other places, times, and people. They also study how musicals and other performances combine singing, dancing, and storytelling to create meaning, while recognizing that music impacts their own lives by shaping connections to others and deepening self-understanding.

Timeline:

12 Lessons