

Unit 1: Introduction to Digital Music

Music Technology

18 Class Meetings

Revised May 2026

Essential Questions

- How do musicians make meaningful connections to creating, performing, and responding?
- How do musicians generate creative ideas?
- How do personal experiences and events impact musicians' musical taste and style?

Enduring Understandings with Unit Goals

EU 1: Musicians connect their personal interests, experiences, ideas, and knowledge to creating, performing, and responding.

- Reflect on how our background knowledge and lifestyle can influence our artistic choices
- Express our interests and experiences through composition and recording

Standards

Common Core State Standards:

MU:Cr1.1.T Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

MU:Cr2.1.T Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

MU:Cr3.2.T Refine and complete artistic work.

MU:Pr4.1.T Analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for presentation.

MU:Pr5.1.T Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.

MU:Pr6.1.T Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

MU:Re7.1.T Perceive and analyze artistic work.

MU:Re8.1.T Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

MU:Re9.1.T Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

MU:Cn10.0.T Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

MU:Cn11.0.T Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

ISAAC Vision of the Graduate Competencies

Competency 1: Write effectively for a variety of purposes.

Competency 2: Speak to diverse audiences in an accountable manner.

Competency 3: Develop the behaviors needed to interact and contribute with others on a team.

Competency 4: Analyze and solve problems independently and collaboratively.

Competency 5: Be responsible, creative, and empathetic members of the community.

Unit 1: All About Me
Music Technology
7 Class Meetings



Unit Content Overview

1. Relationships to Music
 - Evaluating personal experiences with music
 - Connecting experiences to musical ideas
 - **Vocabulary**- Digital Audio Workstation, rhythm, beat, melody, tempo, lyrics, volume/dynamics
2. Digital Audio Workstations.
 - Exploring the functions of DAW
 - Creating personalized and unique music using DAW functions.
 - Connecting personal experiences to musical ideas.
 - Using recording technology to input sound into DAW.

Interdisciplinary Connection:

- Language Arts - Word Problems
- Science – Word Problems
- Visual Arts- Pictures
- Social Studies- Social/Political Movements

Daily Learning Objectives with *Do Now Activities*

Students will be able to...

- Have knowledge of the different functions of a DAW.
- Create a personalized ringtone using the loop library.
- Generate a unique Sonic Signature using MIDI instrument inputs.
- Create an advertisement jingle using all known functions of DAW.
- Create a podcast describing their relationship with music.*
- Learn basic piano skills to perform on MIDI keyboards.
- Read basic rhythmic and treble clef notation.
- Develop criteria for electronic music composition.
- Compare and contrast work from previous progress to now.
- Evaluate quality of projects through presentation.
- Reflect on creation process through written and verbal evaluation.

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Instructional Strategies/Differentiated Instruction

- Lectures with notes
- Guided notes
- Student-led instruction
- Independent problem-solving
- Collaborative problem-solving
- Cross-curricular problem solving (independent and collaborative)
- Accountable Talk
- Homework
- Student Choice

EL Strategies

- Word walls
- TWPS (Think, write, pair, share)
- Pre-reading strategies
- Culturally responsive teaching
- Explicit modeling
- Key Vocabulary
- Graphic organizers
- Strategic grouping
- Non-verbal Assessments

Assessments

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- Warm-ups
- Mid-class check-ins
- Exit Slips
- Accountable Talk Discussions
- Do Now
- Student-led instruction
- Homework
- My Musical Journey Reflection

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- My Musical Journey Podcast- Performance Task
- My Musical Journey Reflection

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Unit Task
Unit Task Name: My Musical Journey Performance Task Description: Students will generate a podcast that highlights important moments in their life through time. The project will begin by students identifying several important experiences in their life, both musical and non-musical. These will then be written down and associated with pictures found online. After this, they will find songs or pieces of music that they believe fit with those memories (e.g., reminded them of that experience, the musical aesthetic matches the emotion tied to the memory, etc.). They will also record themselves explaining the memory in a few words. Students will then begin to compile these recorded thoughts and pieces of music into a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). A graphic organizer will be provided for visual assistance. The projects will be presented and shared with the class, who will be provided with a worksheet that has a few basic questions to keep them engaged. These worksheets will then be handed in and factored into the project grade. Lastly, students will write a brief reflection on their creative process, including why they made those creative choices, what they were proud of, and what they would continue working off if given the chance. Evaluation: Summative Assessment and Future Rubric in 2026-2027 school year

Unit Resources
● Flipped Google Classroom Videos ● Worksheets ● Laptops ● Soundtrap ● Recording Devices ● MIDI Keyboards