

Wallenpaupack Area School District

Planned Course Curriculum Guide

Music

Jam Band – Eighth Grade

Course Description:

Eighth Grade Jam Band is a quarter-length elective course designed to introduce students to the foundational techniques of modern band instruments, including piano, guitar, and drum set. Using the Music Will JamZone curriculum, students progress through individualized instruction and performance activities at their own pace. Students develop basic instrumental technique, rhythmic and harmonic understanding, ensemble skills, and musical independence. Assessment emphasizes individual growth, effort, and progress rather than uniform mastery of predetermined performance levels.

September 2, 2026

Shaun Stuart

Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: Jam Band	GRADE/S: Eighth Grade
UNIT 1: Piano Fundamentals	TIMEFRAME: 7-8 Days

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: 9.1 9.3 9.4
UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS): Identify basic keyboard geography and note names. Demonstrate proper piano playing technique and posture. Perform basic melodies, rhythms, and chords. Apply foundational piano skills while performing contemporary music. Demonstrate individual growth through self-paced instruction.
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES: Music Will JamZone individualized piano lessons Guided practice and teacher coaching Playing melodies, chords, and accompaniment patterns Playing along with recorded contemporary music Individual skill practice and performance
ANCHOR VOCABULARY: keyboard, piano, pitch, rhythm, beat, tempo, melody, chord, harmony, accompaniment
ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative): • Teacher observation • Individual skill demonstrations • JamZone lesson progress • Student participation and engagement • Performance activities • Student self-assessment/reflection
EVIDENCE OF MASTERY/Cut Score (Keystone Exam): • Demonstrated individual growth from baseline skill level • Progress through individualized JamZone instruction • Increased proficiency and independence • Successful completion of performance tasks appropriate to individual ability
DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Remediation/Extension) (Process, Product or Content) Incorporate technology Create an inclusive classroom Provide choice Use scaffolding Allow individualized pacing Balance independent work and teacher-guided instruction
RESOURCES (Websites, Blogs, Videos, Whiteboard Resources, etc.): JamZone.MusicWill.org Pianos/Keyboards Contemporary recorded music Teacher-created instructional materials
RESOURCE SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Keyboard geography, white keys, black keys, octave, melody, chord, accompaniment, rhythm, tempo

COURSE: Jam Band	GRADE/S: Eighth Grade
UNIT 2: Guitar Fundamentals	TIMEFRAME: 7-8 Days

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS:

9.1
9.3
9.4

UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):

Identify the basic parts and functions of the guitar.
Demonstrate proper guitar playing position and technique.
Perform basic chords, riffs, and rhythm patterns.
Apply foundational guitar skills while performing contemporary music.
Demonstrate individual growth through self-paced instruction.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:

Music Will JamZone individualized guitar lessons
Guided practice and teacher coaching
Chord, riff, picking, and strumming exercises
Playing along with recorded contemporary music
Individual skill practice and performance

ANCHOR VOCABULARY: guitar, fretboard, string, fret, chord, riff, strumming, picking, rhythm, tempo

ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):

- Teacher observation
- Individual skill demonstrations
- JamZone lesson progress
- Student participation and engagement
- Performance activities
- Student self-assessment/reflection

EVIDENCE OF MASTERY/Cut Score (Keystone Exam):

- Demonstrated individual growth from baseline skill level
- Progress through individualized JamZone instruction
- Increased proficiency and independence
- Successful completion of performance tasks appropriate to individual ability

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Remediation/Extension) (Process, Product or Content)

Incorporate technology
Create an inclusive classroom
Provide choice
Use scaffolding
Allow individualized pacing
Balance independent work and teacher-guided instruction

RESOURCES (Websites, Blogs, Videos, Whiteboard Resources, etc.):

JamZone.MusicWill.org
Acoustic and/or electric guitars
Contemporary recorded music
Teacher-created instructional materials

RESOURCE SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Guitar anatomy, fretboard, strings, frets, tuning, chord, power chord, riff, strumming, picking

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COURSE: Jam Band	GRADE/S: Eighth Grade
UNIT 3: Drum Set Fundamentals	TIMEFRAME: 7-8 Days

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS: 9.1 9.3 9.4
UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS): Identify the basic parts and functions of the drum set. Demonstrate proper stick grip and playing technique. Perform foundational rhythms, grooves, and fills. Demonstrate basic coordination between limbs while performing. Demonstrate individual growth through self-paced instruction.
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES: Music Will JamZone individualized drum lessons Guided practice and teacher coaching Rhythm and coordination exercises Performing basic grooves and fills Playing along with recorded contemporary music Individual skill practice and performance
ANCHOR VOCABULARY: drum set, beat, rhythm, groove, fill, tempo, pulse, coordination, dynamics
ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative): • Teacher observation • Individual skill demonstrations • JamZone lesson progress • Student participation and engagement • Performance activities • Student self-assessment/reflection
EVIDENCE OF MASTERY/Cut Score (Keystone Exam): • Demonstrated individual growth from baseline skill level • Progress through individualized JamZone instruction • Increased proficiency and independence • Successful completion of performance tasks appropriate to individual ability
DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Remediation/Extension) (Process, Product or Content) Incorporate technology Create an inclusive classroom Provide choice Use scaffolding Allow individualized pacing Balance independent work and teacher-guided instruction
RESOURCES (Websites, Blogs, Videos, Whiteboard Resources, etc.): JamZone.MusicWill.org Drum sets and practice pads Contemporary recorded music Teacher-created instructional materials
RESOURCE SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Drum set anatomy, snare drum, bass drum, hi-hat, cymbal, tom, groove, fill, beat, tempo