

2022-2023 Year At A Glance: General Music & Band

Teacher: Nicholas O'Donnell

	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Kindergarten	Concepts; Beat Vs. Rhythm, Sing vs. Speak, Clapping, Patting, Singing Games. Focus on music for various holidays/seasons like Autumn, Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving. (NOTE: Instruments used throughout the year include, but not limited to: Shakers, rhythm instruments; tambourines, hand drums, rhythm sticks, xylophones)		Focus on Christmas Music for January advent program; religious songs. Rhythm skills, exploring on various instruments. Also MLK songs.	Concepts of rhythm, pitch, listening, form, etc. Explore through singing and on instruments. Learn songs for holidays, including St. Valentine, St. Patrick's Day, and songs for spring & year's end.	Continue exploring music through song & dance, and active listening. Learn songs for spring & year end, both with and without instruments.					
1st Grade	Beat/Rhythm, Elements of rhythm notation (quarter notes, eighth notes), Clapping, Patting, Singing Games. Focus on music for various holidays/seasons like Autumn, Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving. (NOTE: Instruments used throughout the year include, but not limited to: Shakers, rhythm instruments; tambourines, hand drums, rhythm sticks, xylophones, boomwhackers)		Focus on Christmas Music for January advent program; religious songs. Rhythm skills, exploring on various instruments. Also MLK songs.	Focus on songs/lessons themed to holidays (St. Valentine, St. Patrick's day), discuss the "form" of the music (ABA, theme, etc), body percussion, "feeling" the music.	Continue exploring music through song, and active listening. Learn songs for spring & year end, both with and without instruments.					
2nd Grade	Exploring rhythm/tempo, notation in quarter & eighth notes, clapping/patting. Focus on music for various holidays/seasons like Autumn, Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving		Focus on Christmas Music for January advent program; religious songs. Rhythm skills, simple patterns connected to songs, that they also explore on various instruments. Also MLK songs.	Focus on songs/lessons themed to holidays (St. Valentine, St. Patrick's day), discuss the "form" of the music (ABA, theme, etc), body percussion, "feeling" the music.	Continue exploring music through song, and active listening. Learn songs for spring & year end, both with and without instruments.					
3rd Grade	Students continue to expand on their musical concepts of rhythm, notation, and various forms of active listening to get started. Students will focus on music for various holidays/seasons like Autumn, Halloween, Veteran's Day (Assembly), Thanksgiving		Focus on Christmas Music for January advent program; religious songs. Rhythm skills, patterns connected to songs, that they also explore on various instruments, including Orff Instruments (Xylo/Metallophone). Students learn to play "Borduns", chordal accompaniment, crossover borduns, and playing 2-3 parts of a song.	Focus on songs/lessons themed to holidays (St. Valentine, St. Patrick's day), discuss the "form" of the music (ABA, theme, etc), body percussion, "feeling" the music. Students continue their learning of Orff Instruments, along with drums, boomwhackers, rhythm instruments, and more. Start with Recorder Karate.	Continue Recorder Karate. Explore music through song, and learn various folk songs from around the world, and many cultures. Learn songs for spring & year end, both with and without instruments.					
4th Grade	Students continue to expand on their musical concepts of rhythm, notation, and various forms of active listening to get started. Students will focus on music for various holidays/seasons like Autumn, Halloween, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving. Students get started with instrumental exploration; Orff instruments, Drumming, Boomwhackers, anything fun to get them started.		Focus on Christmas Music for January advent program; religious songs. Rhythm skills, patterns connected to songs, that they also explore on various instruments, including Orff Instruments (Xylo/Metallophone). Students learn to play "Borduns", chordal accompaniment, crossover borduns, and playing 2-3 parts of a song.	Focus on songs/lessons themed to holidays (St. Valentine, St. Patrick's day), discuss the "form" of the music (ABA, theme, etc), body percussion, "feeling" the music. Students continue their learning of Orff Instruments, along with drums, boomwhackers, rhythm instruments, and more. Students also get started with the ukulele at this point of the year.	Continue exploring music through song, and learn various folk songs from around the world, and many cultures. Learn songs for spring & year end, both with and without instruments. Continue instruments such as ukulele, Orff, and more.					

5th Grade Beginning Band	All 5th grade students start beginning band during the school day: Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion (drums & mallets) First few weeks devoted reading music; rhythms, notes on the staff, counting. Instrument selection process will take place (kids choose their instrument, usually their 1st preferred choice) REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Essential Elements for Band, by Hal Leonard (official score and sample books are in music library). Students are required to provide instruments and book,, available at Beacock Music. Then, STARTING THE 1ST WEEK OF OCTOBER: Focus on INSTRUMENTS!! Instrument Assembly, sound, creating their first sound and notes, respective on each instrument. Learn the first 5 notes in the 1st two pages. Progress normally.		Band will continue in Essential Elements book, learning more 5 note songs, rhythms, honing their technique/sound production on their instruments. Students should be able to make it at least a few pages, learned whole, half, quarter notes. By January, students should be able to learn 8th notes and usually start their 1st piece of sheet music.	Band will continue building their knowledge on their instruments, all instruments will demonstrate good tone, knowledge of basic 5-6 note scales, and lower notes below concert B-flat. Demonstrate all rhythms, and sheet music about 0.5 grade level.	Band will finish off the year with as much of the tunes learned in their book as they can play, various pieces of sheet music, and possibly performances. Good sound, knowledge of at least 7-8 notes learned on their instrument. Sheet music should be about grade 0.5 to 1.0, per difficulty level.
6th Grade Band	(NOTE: All students were in band previously for 5th grade, and will continue with 6th Grade Band. 6th Grade Band will start where they left off last year, in their Essential Elements Book.	Band will continue in the Essential Elements book, focusing on listening and musicality. Band will learn Christmas/Holiday selections around this time, Grade 1+ sheet music by this time.	BAND: will continue building their knowledge on their instruments, learning to cross over into the upper registers (clarinets learn to cross into the break). Sheet music about grade 1 to 1.5 level at this point.	BAND: Finish off the year strong with as far into the book as they can get (possibly looking at book 2), sheet music of standard band repertoire, festival pieces, or movie tunes at grade 1.5 or higher.	
7th Grade General Music	Review concepts of theory, harmony, rhythm, ear-training. Continue ukulele training, learning strumming rhythms and songs, and reading music.	Class will continue lessons with songs and note reading on the Ukulele, commence Bucket Drumming (month long unit) and World Drumming (Tubanos, Hand Drums, classroom instruments). Pieces and concepts should be advanced to 7th grade level; doing advanced, multipart rhythm (8ths, 16ths, triplets, "syncopated" rhythms)	GENERAL MUSIC: Class continues where they left off with bucket & world drumming, playing as many pieces as they can. Then, transition over into the ukulele. Students will review their learned knowledge of chords, and how to read them. They will learn many more chords (Refer to MusicPlayOnline, Ukelaliens, or any other songbook for curriculum)	GENERAL MUSIC: Continued study of the ukulele, with learning as many chords as they can, and combine it with singing. Learn traditional folk songs to sing while playing, add other instruments (drums, etc) as needed.	
8th Grade General Music	Explore music through the guitar. Learn basic chords and music reading in first position on the guitar. Strumming and accompaniment techniques. Concepts of theory, harmony, rhythm, ear-training. Use musical concepts learned from 6th & 7th grade.	Students will learn chords and melodies of Christmas songs, learning how to sing and strum at the same time.	Class will move into seasonal music (MLK Jr. and other seasonal, etc) with their instrumental knowledge. Students will start learning theory, ear training; major, minor, and 7th chords, scale positions, interval training, and writing out scales & chords.	Class will dive into a culminating unit on all of these areas and learn pieces that combine skills at the end of the year, using all the instruments they have learned (ukulele, drumming).	