Music Year At A Glance

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 December Christmas 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 December Christmas 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 December Christmas 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 chordal accompaniment, 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.		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	Recorders! We will be starting the Recorder Karate Program, a highly motivational program that utilizes a series of progressively more challenging recorder tunes, with a belt reward when the song is mastered. This program is very popular! We will take a break from the program to work on Christmas songs for the Christmas Program.	We finish up the Recorder Karate Program, and begin to transition to learning and playing recorder pieces as a group.	We begin to play more advanced rhythmic and melodic material as a group, becoming a Recorder Choir. We prepare material for the Spring Showcase.	We focus on more challenging material, including two and possibly three-part Recorder Choir pieces, preparing students for 5th Grade Beginning Band.
5th Grade Band	Band Class! For the month of September we will be focusing on the intricacies of reading music, reviewing notes on the staff and rhythms. Once students choose their instruments, we will be learning the basic techniques of each instrumental group, and playing our first notes!	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 play through at least a few pages in the book, and should be comfortable with whole, half, quarter notes. By January, students should be able to play 8th notes, and we 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. They will be able to demonstrate all rhythms, and sheet music at 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 Ukuleles!	Ukuleles! We learn the basics of this popular instrument. How to hold the ukulele, basic chords, strumming techniques, simple songs.	We continue the exploration of the ukulele, starting to read notes, playing more complicated rhythms and strumming patterns, and playing songs with a greater range of chords (including some Christmas favorites).	Lots of note reading! We can play the notes of the C major scale in open position on the ukulele, and sight read melodies using those notes. We strum and sing many popular songs.	We can strum through songs in several keys, using many different rhythms and strumming patterns, and we can read and play syncopated rhythms and note subdivisions.
7th Grade Guitars!	Guitars! We will begin the year focusing on the basics of this versatile instrument, how to hold it, proper strumming techniques and rhythms, and lots of songs!	Students will learn chords, melodies, and rhythms of popular songs, Christmas songs, and classic tunes, and will learn how to sing and strum at the same time.	Students will start learning theory, ear training; major, minor, and 7th chords, scale positions, and will begin learning standard song structure.	Students will explore rhythm as the foundation of music through percussion ensemble experiences, including bucket drumming and body percussion. They will develop coordination, subdivision, improvisation, and ensemble communication while performing increasingly complex rhythmic patterns from a variety of musical traditions.

	Musical Building Blocks Students will investigate the fundamental elements of composition by creating rhythmic patterns, bass lines, chord progressions, melodies, and musical motives using a digital audio workstation (DAW). Through listening, analysis, and short creative projects, students will develop the musical vocabulary and technical skills needed for larger composition projects while becoming proficient with digital music production tools.	Songwriting Students will apply compositional techniques to create original songs by combining melody, harmony, rhythm, lyrics, and song form. Using a DAW, students will draft, revise, and refine original works while exploring arrangement techniques, creative decision making, and peer feedback throughout the songwriting process.	Music Production & Arrangement Students will expand their understanding of music production through recording, editing, arranging, and mixing original compositions. Students will use digital music technology to explore instrumentation, effects processing, automation, and collaborative music creation while strengthening their artistic voice.	Portfolio & Capstone Project Students will refine and curate a digital portfolio of original musical works created throughout the year. Through revision, reflection, and peer feedback, students will complete a capstone composition that demonstrates their growth as composers and producers. Selected projects will be presented at the annual Art and Band Showcase, celebrating students' creativity and musicianship with an authentic public audience.
8th Grade				