

DRAFT
5-12 Instrumental Music (Band)
Grade Level Units of Study, Topics, Synopses, Enduring
Understandings & Focus Questions

Music..
Is a moral.
It gives a soul to the universe,
A charm to sadness,
Flight to the imagination, and life to everything.

- Plato

Music, in the..... Within each of these units are a series of “enduring understandings”. Enduring understandings are the purpose for learning. They are the heart of the discipline, the overarching ideas we want students to discover about the content area. Within each of the enduring understandings are “focus questions”. Focus questions facilitate the student’s thinking toward the enduring understandings. The focus questions engage student in the study and create a bridge between performance based activities and deeper, conceptual understandings.

Below is a table outlining the units of study, for each grade level, based on the enduring understandings developed for music discovery. The units of study, as outlined in the below sequence, accomplish a variety of functions. All sixth graders will be introduced to some of the music concepts in an exploratory class . Seventh and eighth graders who join the choir will continue to experience the rest of the concepts. Finally, this curriculum is in line with the the State of Michigan - Mi Climb Fine Arts standards for Michigan schools.

The following pages provide a scope for the units of study in music. The scope includes important topics within each unit, unit synopses, enduring understandings and their accompanying focus questions. These following elements are the driving framework for the music curriculum.

5th Grade Band	5th Grade Band
Unit: Tone Production	Topics: Breath Support, Embouchur
Unit Synopsis: Tone production is a fundamental aspect of instrumental music. This unit will focus on el posture, breath support, and embouchure that must be addressed in production of a quality tone.	
CONCEPTS: Tone Quality	

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Learning how to demonstrate good tone production will enable you to perform better on your instrument.	Why is it important to produce a good quality tone? How does tone quality affect a performance ?
2	Posture Is related to producing a quality, characteristic tone on a wind instrument	How does posture relate to tone production? What are the elements of posture that relate to good t
3	Correct embouchure formation impacts the quality of the tone.	Why does a change in embouchure affect your to What are the elements of embouchure formation
4	The physical process of taking in air and releasing air is different when playing a wind instrument	How does your breathing affect your tone?

5th grade Band

Unit: <u>Note Names</u>	Topics: Letter names of Lines and Spaces
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Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce and provide practice in recognizing the letter names of the lines and spaces on a musical staff.

CONCEPTS: melody, music reading, music notation

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Understanding music notation can lead to better music reading.	How can the names of the lines and spaces in a music staff help with music reading? Why do the lines and spaces of a musical staff have letter names?
2	The letter names of the lines and spaces are sometimes different for different instruments.	Why do different instruments sometimes have different letter names for the lines and spaces?
3	Ledger lines can extend the staff.	How can you write notes above or below a musical staff?
4		

5TH GRADE BAND

Unit: Rhythm	Topics: Rhythmic values for whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes time signatures
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Unit Synopsis: This unit will develop basic rhythmic concepts necessary for early music reading.

CONCEPTS: Rhythmic notation, note and rest values.

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Understanding Note and Rest values will increase the ability to read music	Why is it important to understand the rhythmic value of notes and rests?
2	Rhythmic values remain constant as the tempo changes.	How does rhythm relate to tempo?
3		
4		

5TH GRADE BAND

Unit: Performance	Topics Performance Etiquette, performance practice, performance.
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Unit Synopsis: This unit will address the important aspects of proper performance behavior, effort, and attitude.

CONCEPTS: respect, compare/contrast, aesthetics

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Certain behaviors and skills may contribute to producing a good performance	How is a performance different than a rehearsal? Why is producing a good performance important? Why do non-musical things like behavior affect the quality of performance?
2	Different types and styles of music create variety and interest in musical performance	Why is it important to perform differing styles of music?
3		
4		

6th Grade Band

Unit: Tone Production	Topics: Tone production, tone quality, posture, breath control.
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Unit Synopsis: Tone production is a fundamental aspect of instrumental music. This unit will focus on embouchure, posture, breath support, and embouchure that must be addressed in production of a quality tone.		
CONCEPTS: Tone Quality, embouchure formation, posture, breathing process		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Learning how to demonstrate good tone production will enable you to perform better on your instrument	Why is it important to produce a good quality tone? How does tone quality affect a performance ?
2	Posture Is related to producing a quality, characteristic tone on a wind instrument	How does posture relate to tone production? What are the elements of posture that relate to good tone production?
3	Correct embouchure formation impacts the quality of the tone.	Why does a change in embouchure affect your tone? Why is it important to develop greater control of embouchure?
4	The physical process of taking in air and releasing air is different when playing a wind instrument	How does breath control affect tone quality and intonation? Why is the physical process of taking in air and releasing air important when playing a wind instrument?

6th Grade Band

Unit: Note Names/Melody		Topics: Higher and lower pitches, letter names,
Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce and provide practice in recognizing the letter names of the lines and spaces on a musical staff.		
CONCEPTS: Music notation, music reading		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Understanding music notation can lead to better music reading.	How can the names of the lines and spaces in a musical staff help with music reading? Why do the lines and spaces of a musical staff have letter names?

2	The letter names of the lines and spaces are sometimes different for different instruments.	Why do different instruments sometimes have different letter names?
3	Ledger lines can extend the staff.	How can you write notes above or below a music staff?
4		

6th Grade Band

Unit: Performing skills	Topics: Scales, Styles, Consistency, Articulation	
Unit Synopsis: This unit will focus on the performance skills of scale knowledge, producing the proper style, articulation, dynamics and tone quality, and Consistency of performance		
CONCEPTS: Performance production, how to prepare for a performance, necessary skills for a quality performance		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Consistency of sound and performance must be addressed in pre-concert rehearsals.	Why does consistency of sound become more important as you approach a performance?
2	Musical elements such as articulation, dynamics, and tone quality are necessary for a good performance.	How do different musical elements combine to create a good performance?
3	Knowledge of scales and fingering patterns enable students to perform at a higher level.	What is the role of scale knowledge and technical skills in a good performance?
4		

6th Grade Band

Unit: Rhythm	Topics: Rhythm values for whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, and tempo
Unit Synopsis: This unit will develop basic rhythmic concepts necessary for early music reading.	

CONCEPTS: Rhythm in music, elements of music, common beat		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Understanding Note and Rest values may increase the ability to read music	Why is it important to understand the rhythmic value of notes and rests?
2	Rhythmic values remain constant as the tempo changes.	How does rhythm relate to tempo?
3	Rhythmic interaction between instruments creates interest and emotional effect.	Why do people respond differently to rhythm?
4		

6th Grade Band

Unit: PERFORMANCE	Topics: Performance Etiquette, performance
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Unit Synopsis: This unit will address the important aspects of proper performance behavior, effort, and audience interaction.

CONCEPTS:
Performance etiquette, Value of performance, Audience

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Certain behaviors and skills may contribute to producing a good performance	How is a performance different than a rehearsal? Why is producing a good performance important? Why do non-musical things like behavior affect the quality of performance?
2	It is important to share your gifts, such as music with others	Why is it important to perform for others?
3		
4		

6th Grade Band

Unit: Interpretation	Topics:
Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce the concepts of musical interpretation such as dynamics, expression, and phrasing.	

terminology, conducting gestures.

CONCEPTS:

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	It is important to be able to play with a good quality tone at different dynamic levels.	How do the dynamics contribute to the quality of the r Why are dynamic changes used in music performance
2	The ability to recognize and interpret signs and expressive terminology in music	Why are terms and symbols of expression used in mu
3	The ability to respond to expressive gestures (nonverbal gestures)	Why are in nonverbal gestures used in conductin
4		

6th Grade Band

Unit: HISTORY/CULTURE

Topics:

Genres

Cross-Disciplinary connections

Multi-lingual songs

Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce the historical and cultural aspects of instrumental music. Melodic and some aspects of the historical development of band music will be discussed.

CONCEPTS: respect, aesthetics, contrast

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Music has a historical and cultural basis	Why is it important to learn about the historical and cu music? How can someone learn about the cultural and/or histo of music?
2	It is important to learn music from different cultures and time periods.	Why is it important to learn music from different cul
3	Music from other cultures and time periods may sound different than the music we are use to hearing.	Why does music from other cultures and time perio different or unusual? Why do cultures use a certain type of sound or style create?

6th Grade Band

6th Grade Band

Unit: <u>Music Analysis</u>		Topics:
Unit Synopsis: The language of music has a vocabulary all its own. Music is communicated through patterns and symbols. Study of basic music signs and terms and demonstrate their understandings through choral performances, music notation		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Learning to interpret <u>patterns</u> and <u>symbols</u> in music, helps to independently explore music and <u>communicate</u> ideas with others through music.	Why is it important to read and write? How are patterns used in music? How is music a form of communication?
2	<u>Listening</u> to and <u>analyzing</u> music helps to develop an appreciation of how music relates to a person's environment and <u>culture</u> .	How can a person critique a piece of music? What is the difference between listening to analyze? How can empathy for another culture be shown through its music?
3	<u>Rhythm</u> is the foundation a musical piece and contributes to the <u>expression</u> of a song.	How can you change a rhythmic pattern? How does a rhythm provide the foundation of a song? How do composers use rhythm to create interest? Why are there varied responses to different rhythms?

7th Grade Band

Unit: Tone Production	Topics: Tone production, tone quality, posture, breath support, embouchure
Unit Synopsis: Tone production is a fundamental aspect of instrumental music. This unit will focus on the elements of posture, breath support, and embouchure that must be addressed in production of a quality tone.	

CONCEPTS: Tone Quality, embouchure formation, posture, breathing process

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Learning how to demonstrate good tone production will enable you to perform better on your instrument	Why is it important to produce a good quality tone? How does tone quality affect a performance ?
2	Posture Is related to producing a quality, characteristic tone on a wind instrument	How does posture relate to tone production? What are the elements of posture that relate to good t
3	Correct embouchure formation impacts the quality of the tone.	Why does a change in embouchure affect your to Why is it important to develop greater control of
4	The physical process of taking in air and releasing air is different when playing a wind instrument	How does breath control affect tone quality and intona Why is the physical process of taking in air and releas when playing a wind instrument?

7th Grade Band

Unit: Note Names/Melody

Topics:

Higher and lower pitches, letter names,

Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce and provide practice in recognizing the letter names of the lines and spaces on a musical staff.

CONCEPTS: Music notation, music reading

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Understanding music notation can lead to better music reading.	How can the names of the lines and spaces in a music Why do the lines and spaces of a musical staff have le
2	The letter names of the lines and spaces are sometimes different for different instruments.	Why do different instruments sometimes have differ
3	Ledger lines can extend the staff.	How can you write notes above or below a music
4		

7th Grade Band

Unit: Performing skills		Topics: Scales, Styles, Consistency, Articulation
Unit Synopsis: This unit will focus on the performance skills of scale knowledge, producing the proper style of articulation, dynamics and tone quality, and Consistency of performance		
CONCEPTS: Performance production, how to prepare for a performance, necessary skills for a quality performance		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Consistency of sound and performance must be addressed in pre-concert rehearsals.	Why does consistency of sound become more important as the performance approaches?
2	Musical elements such as articulation, dynamics, and tone quality are necessary for a good performance.	How do different musical elements combine to create a performance?
3	Knowledge of scales and fingering patterns enable students to perform at a higher level.	What is the role of scale knowledge and technical skills in a performance?
4		

7th Grade Band

Unit: Rhythm		Topics: Rhythm values for whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, and tempo
Unit Synopsis: This unit will develop basic rhythmic concepts necessary for early music reading.		
CONCEPTS: Rhythm in music, elements of music, common beat		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Understanding Note and Rest values may increase the ability to read music	Why is it important to understand the rhythmic value of notes and rests?
2	Rhythmic values remain constant as the tempo changes.	How does rhythm relate to tempo?

3	Rhythmic interaction between instruments creates interest and emotional effect.	Why do people respond differently to rhythm?
4		

7th grade band

Unit: PERFORMANCE		Topics: Performance Etiquette, performance
Unit Synopsis: This unit will address the important aspects of proper performance behavior, effort, and a		
CONCEPTS: Performance etiquette, Value of performance, Audience		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Certain behaviors and skills may contribute to producing a good performance	How is a performance different than a rehearsal? Why is producing a good performance important? Why do non-musical things like behavior affect the quality of performance?
2	It is important to share your gifts, such as music with others	Why is it important to perform for others?
3		
4		

7th Grade Band

Unit: Interpretation		Topics:
Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce the concepts of musical interpretation such as dynamics, expressive terminology, conducting gestures.		
CONCEPTS:		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	It is important to be able to play with a good quality tone at different dynamic levels.	How do the dynamics contribute to the quality of the music? Why are dynamic changes used in music performance?

2	The ability to recognize and interpret signs and expressive terminology in music	Why are terms and symbols of expression used in music?
3	The ability to respond to expressive gestures (nonverbal gestures)	Why are nonverbal gestures used in conducting?
4		

7th Grade Band

Unit: HISTORY/CULTURE	Topics: Genres Cross-Disciplinary connections Multi-lingual songs
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Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce the historical and cultural aspects of instrumental music. Melodic and some aspects of the historical development of band music will be discussed.

CONCEPTS: respect, aesthetics, contrast

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Music has a historical and cultural basis	Why is it important to learn about the historical and cultural aspects of music? How can someone learn about the cultural and/or historical aspects of music?
2	It is important to learn music from different cultures and time periods.	Why is it important to learn music from different cultures and time periods?
3	Music from other cultures and time periods may sound different than the music we are used to hearing.	Why does music from other cultures and time periods sound different or unusual? Why do cultures use a certain type of sound or style to create music?
4		

7th Grade Band

7th Grade Band

Unit: <u>Music Analysis</u>	Topics:
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Unit Synopsis:

The language of music has a vocabulary all its own. Music is communicated through patterns and symbols. Study basic music signs and terms and demonstrate their understandings through choral performances, music notation :

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Learning to interpret <u>patterns</u> and <u>symbols</u> in music, helps to independently explore music and <u>communicate</u> ideas with others through music.	Why is it important to read and write? How are patterns used in music? How is music a form of communication?
2	<u>Listening</u> to and <u>analyzing</u> music helps to develop an appreciation of how music relates to a person's environment and <u>culture</u> .	How can a person critique a piece of music? What is the difference between listening to analyze? How can empathy for another culture be shown through its music?
3	<u>Rhythm</u> is the foundation a musical piece and contributes to the <u>expression</u> of a song.	How can you change a rhythmic pattern? How does a rhythm provide the foundation of a song? How do composers use rhythm to create a mood? Why are there varied responses to different rhythms?

7th Grade Band

7th Grade Band

Unit: CREATING	Topics: improvising rhythmic variations composing short melodies show respect for others' input
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Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce the concepts of changing the rhythm of familiar melodies, creating new rhythms, and composing original music.

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	<u>Composing</u> is a form of <u>communication</u> and provides a method of self <u>expression</u> .	Why is music a good form of self expression? How does composing music make you feel? Does a composer's music always reflect their personality? What is a composer's role?
2	<u>Composing rhythms</u> and songs provides a deeper understanding of the <u>form</u> and structure of music and reflect the time period and <u>culture</u> of the composer.	How can you use technology to compose music? How are different sections combined in a composition? What kinds of elements can you use to create a unique sound?

		your culture? How does music of today compare v
3	<u>Composing and improvising</u> music can help people work together and learn to <u>respect</u> and value the work of others around them.	What is the value of creating music? Why is it important to explore differ music? What are some ways that you can sh musicians? What are some advantages of compc other people?

8th Grade Band

Unit: Tone Production	Topics: Tone production, tone quality, posture, l
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Unit Synopsis: Tone production is a fundamental aspect of instrumental music. This unit will focus on el posture, breath support, and embouchure that must be addressed in production of a quality tone.

CONCEPTS: Tone Quality, embouchure formation, posture, breathing process

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Learning how to demonstrate good tone production will enable you to perform better on your instrument	Why is it important to produce a good quality tone? How does tone quality affect a performance ?
2	Posture Is related to producing a quality, characteristic tone on a wind instrument	How does posture relate to tone production? What are the elements of posture that relate to good t
3	Correct embouchure formation impacts the quality of the tone.	Why does a change in embouchure affect your to Why is it important to develop greater control of
4	The physical process of taking in air and releasing air is different when playing a wind instrument	How does breath control affect tone quality and intona Why is the physical process of taking in air and releas when playing a wind instrument?

8th Grade Band

Unit: Note Names/Melody		Topics: Higher and lower pitches, letter names,
Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce and provide practice in recognizing the letter names of the lines on a musical staff.		
CONCEPTS: Music notation, music reading		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Understanding music notation can lead to better music reading.	How can the names of the lines and spaces in a music staff help with music reading? Why do the lines and spaces of a musical staff have letter names?
2	The letter names of the lines and spaces are sometimes different for different instruments.	Why do different instruments sometimes have different letter names?
3	Ledger lines can extend the staff.	How can you write notes above or below a musical staff?
4		

8th Grade Band

Unit: Rhythm		Topics: Rhythm values for whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, and triplet notes and rests tempo
Unit Synopsis: This unit will develop basic rhythmic concepts necessary for early music reading.		
CONCEPTS: Rhythm in music, elements of music, common beat		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Understanding Note and Rest values may increase the ability to read music	Why is it important to understand the rhythmic value of notes and rests?
2	Rhythmic values remain constant as the tempo changes.	How does rhythm relate to tempo?
3	Rhythmic interaction between instruments creates interest and emotional effect.	Why do people respond differently to rhythm?

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8th Grade Band

Unit: PERFORMANCE	Topics: Performance Etiquette, performance
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Unit Synopsis: This unit will address the important aspects of proper performance behavior, effort, and a

CONCEPTS:
Performance etiquette, Value of performance, Audience

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Certain behaviors and skills may contribute to producing a good performance	How is a performance different than a rehearsal? Why is producing a good performance important? Why do non-musical things like behavior affect the quality of performance?
2	It is important to share your gifts, such as music with others	Why is it important to perform for others?
3		
4		

8th Grade Band

Unit: Interpretation	Topics:
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Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce the concepts of musical interpretation such as dynamics, expressive terminology, conducting gestures.

CONCEPTS:

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	It is important to be able to play with a good quality tone at different dynamic levels.	How do the dynamics contribute to the quality of the music? Why are dynamic changes used in music performance?

2	The ability to recognize and interpret signs and expressive terminology in music	Why are terms and symbols of expression used in music?
3	The ability to respond to expressive gestures (nonverbal gestures)	Why are nonverbal gestures used in conducting?
4		

8th Grade Band

Unit: HISTORY/CULTURE		Topics: Genres Cross-Disciplinary connections Multi-lingual songs
Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce the historical and cultural aspects of instrumental music. Melodies and some aspects of the historical development of band music will be discussed.		
CONCEPTS: respect, aesthetics, contrast		
<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Music has a historical and cultural basis	Why is it important to learn about the historical and cultural aspects of music? How can someone learn about the cultural and/or historical aspects of music?
2	It is important to learn music from different cultures and time periods.	Why is it important to learn music from different cultures and time periods?
3	Music from other cultures and time periods may sound different than the music we are used to hearing.	Why does music from other cultures and time periods sound different or unusual? Why do cultures use a certain type of sound or style?
4		

8th Grade Band

8th Grade Band

Unit: <u>Music Analysis</u>	Topics: Form, tone colors, mood
Unit Synopsis: This unit will introduce the basic concepts of instrumental music analysis that will help students understand the structure and elements of music.	

perform their music.

<i>Number</i>	Enduring Understanding	Focus Questions
1	Learning to interpret <u>patterns</u> and <u>symbols</u> in music, helps to independently explore music and <u>communicate</u> ideas with others through music.	Why is it important to read and write? How are patterns used in music? How is music a form of communication?
2	<u>Listening</u> to and <u>analyzing</u> music helps to develop an appreciation of how music relates to a person's environment and <u>culture</u> .	How can a person critique a piece of music? What is the difference between listening to analyze? How can empathy for another culture be shown through its music?
3	<u>Rhythm</u> is the foundation of a musical piece and contributes to the <u>expression</u> of a song.	How can you change a rhythmic pattern? How does a rhythm provide the structure of a song? How do composers use rhythm to create mood? Why are there varied responses to different rhythms?