

Course Syllabus

What you will learn in this course



ARTS

Middle School Exploring Music 1a

Introduction

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORING MUSIC 1A: INTRODUCTION

Stimulate your interest in music and develop talents to become a true musician. You will learn about music's place in our daily lives and its origins. Also, study rhythms, pitch, and melody to develop your listening skills and lay the foundation for learning to read music. Shift your understanding of music from a casual listener to that of a musician.

Unit 1: Good Vibrations (Intro to Music)

Imagine a baseball game that began without singing the National Anthem. What about a birthday party where, before cutting the cake, no one sang "Happy Birthday," or a wedding where the bride walked down the aisle to silence? Music has been an important part of human life for thousands of years, and we are just now discovering the impact that music can have on the human brain,

emotions, and even the forces that shape history. In this Unit, we will explore the origins of music and the role that music plays in our lives.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Reflect on the different places and times that music is heard
- Discuss the origin of music in human culture
- Summarize the roles that music plays in human society
- Understand the way our brain processes music
- Examine careers in the music industry

| UNIT 1 Assignments | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Assignment | Type |
| Unit 1 Text Questions | Homework |
| Unit 1 Lab | Homework |
| Unit 1 Activity | Homework |
| Unit 1 Discussion 1 | Discussion |
| Unit 1 Discussion 2 | Discussion |
| Unit 1 Quiz | Quiz |

Unit 2: Elements of Music

Have you ever been to a concert and wondered where the musicians learned how to perform so powerfully? They all started by learning the basics: the elements of music! You might be familiar with rhythm, pitch, melody, and harmony. We will explore these elements a little deeper so that you have the tools you need to create beautiful music!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Tap the steady beat to any song
- Recognize note values and rhythms when written
- Understand how rhythm and melody work together
- Describe how a piano keyboard can help us understand steps, scales, and chords

| UNIT 2 Assignments | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Assignment | Type |
| Unit 2 Text Questions | Homework |
| Unit 2 Lab | Homework |
| Unit 2 Activity | Homework |
| Unit 2 Discussion 1 | Discussion |
| Unit 2 Discussion 2 | Discussion |
| Unit 2 Quiz | Quiz |

Middle School Exploring Music 1a Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first two units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

| MIDTERM Assignments | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Assignment | Type |
| Midterm Exam | Exam |
| Midterm Discussion Assignment | Discussion |

Unit 3: Start With Your Ears

In our busy world, how do we learn to really focus on the music all around us? Should we listen for the beat, the melody, or the harmony? What is most important? Well, the answer of course is—all of them! In this unit, we will learn how to sharpen our listening skills in order to hear the details of music. Doing so will help us to begin thinking about music in a new way.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Use active listening when enjoying a piece of music

- Apply the listening checklist to any piece of music
- Discuss the grand staff and how it relates to the musical elements
- Describe the importance of transcribing for musicians

| UNIT 3 Assignments | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Assignment | Type |
| Unit 3 Text Questions | Homework |
| Unit 3 Lab | Homework |
| Unit 3 Activity | Homework |
| Unit 3 Discussion 1 | Discussion |
| Unit 3 Discussion 2 | Discussion |
| Unit 3 Quiz | Quiz |

Unit 4: Exploring the Voice

Even if you just sing in the shower, it's important to understand how our voices help us connect to ourselves and others, and also how our voices help us to express ourselves musically. In this unit we will build on our knowledge of musical elements to start reading real music!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Follow the five steps to reading a new piece of music
- Find the key signature, time signature, and your vocal part
- Use solfege syllables to begin singing new music
- Practice guidelines for vocal health to make sure your voice stays healthy and flexible

| UNIT 4 Assignments | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Assignment | Type |
| Unit 4 Text Questions | Homework |
| Unit 4 Lab | Homework |

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Unit 4 Activity | Homework |
| Unit 4 Discussion 1 | Discussion |
| Unit 4 Discussion 2 | Discussion |
| Unit 4 Quiz | Quiz |

Middle School Exploring Music 1a Final Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from all units in this course. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

| FINAL Assignments | |
|--|-------------|
| Assignment | Type |
| Final Exam | Exam |
| Class Reflection Discussion Assignment | Discussion |

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