

Grade Level / Course Summary with Big Ideas:

8th grade music focuses on musical experiences aligned with the PA Academic Standards for Arts and Humanities and the National Standards for Music Education. As students progress through this course they will build upon the previously studied elements of music through the study of music careers. This includes form, pitch, rhythm, composition, and expressive elements. Students will participate in age-appropriate singing activities, movement activities, playing instruments, and listening activities. We begin with a review of rhythms and note names and an introduction to Garageband software. We then apply the skills learned previously in general music to a hands-on study of music careers. Beginning with Folley artists, we discuss environmental sounds and add sound effects to a *Tom and Jerry* cartoon. We lead this activity into a composition using only environmental sounds as “instruments.” As a culminating activity the students add sound effects into a suspenseful movie. Piggybacking off of sound effects we move into film score as our next career. We perform some film scores on Orff instruments and Boomwhackers and then discuss the elements of mood in music. We then add music to the suspenseful movie that students previously worked on with the sound effects project. Our next career is songwriting. We take a few classes to brush up on our guitar skills, while we discuss the elements of songwriting. Students write their own song. We follow songwriting with jingle writing, where students talk about melody, and hooks and write a jingle for a local company. And the final career is performer, we talk about the elements of performance and students break into groups and cover a song, which they then perform for their classmates.

Grade Level Modules (Units):

Suggested Timeline
of Weeks or # of Class Periods/Lessons

1. Rhythm (notes, rests, time signatures, beat, duple, triple, composition)	7 lessons
2. Pitch (Treble clef, bass clef, ledger lines, composition)	5 lessons
3. Garageband (Rhythmic Composition)	4 lessons
4. Music careers (folley, performance, songwriting, jingles, filmscore,	20 lessons
5. Guitar (review, G, C, D, Em, composition)	5 lessons
6. Instrumental Performance (Orff, Percussion, Boomwhackers)	10 lessons
7. Vocal Performance (Solfege singing, folk, blues, spirituals)	10 lessons

Learning Activities/Modes of Formative and Summative Assessment:

Learning Activities:

Singing activities
Playing instruments
Movement activities
Describing music
Listening activities
Composition

Modes of Assessment

Teacher observation
Projects with rubrics
Worksheets
Quizzes

Primary Instructional Resources:

Music Literature
Acceptable Internet sites and tech applications
Garageband
Instruments