

Middle School Music and Choir Standards & Benchmarks

Students entering Middle School will have a wide range of musical skills and knowledge. The following standards and benchmarks describe the cumulative skills to be attained during the Middle School years. Individual levels of achievement will vary.

1. Students will sing, play, and perform a varied repertoire.

1. Students will sing unison and part songs, developing vocal techniques and musical expression.
2. Students will sing and play music from a variety of cultures and time periods.
3. Students will perform melodies on keyboards and classroom instruments.
4. Students will perform ensemble music.
5. Students will rehearse and present projects and performances.

2. Students will improvise, compose, and notate music.

1. Students will improvise rhythmic and melodic ideas.
2. Students will use sound, structure and musical elements to create an effect.
3. Students will create original melodies.
4. Students will notate original compositions as appropriate.
5. Students will compose pieces using various parameters.
6. Students will use a variety of traditional and non-traditional sound sources and electronic media.

3. Students will read music.

1. Students will read notes on treble or bass staves.
2. Students will identify basic rhythmic notation.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of solfege syllables and hand signs

4. Students will be exposed to music and music performances from various cultures and eras

1. Students will identify how sounds are used to create effects and moods.
2. Students will recognize how music has influenced world culture and history.

3. Students will express creativity and feelings through movement.

Students entering High School will have a wide range of musical skills and knowledge. The following standards and benchmarks describe the cumulative skills to be attained during the High School (GRADE 9). Individual levels of achievement will vary.

1. Students will sing, play, and perform a varied repertoire.

1. Demonstrates ability to perform music from a variety of cultures, time periods and styles
2. Performs melodies on keyboards and classroom instruments
3. Performs solo and ensemble music
4. Demonstrates ability to rehearse and present projects and performances

2. Students will improvise, compose, and notate music.

1. Improvises rhythmic and melodic ideas using given parameters
2. Notates original compositions as appropriate
3. Composes pieces using various parameters
4. Completes part writing using the leading tone, supertonic triad, submediant triad, mediant triad, primary triads (major /minor), first inversion primary chords, dominant seventh chord to tonic, subdominant triad to the dominant seventh chord, and melodic preparation of the seventh of the dominant seventh chord
5. Demonstrates ability to compose music for special occasions within specified guidelines
6. Demonstrates ability to compose in the verse-chorus song form within specified guidelines
7. Demonstrates ability to compose in ternary form within specified guidelines
8. Demonstrates ability to compose in the theme and variations form within specified guidelines
9. Demonstrates ability to compose in minimalist form within specified guidelines
10. Demonstrates ability to compose using extended instrumental techniques within specific guidelines
11. Demonstrates ability to compose in the musique concrète form within specified guidelines
12. Demonstrates ability to compose film music within specified guidelines

3. Students will read music.

1. Reads notes on treble or bass staves
2. Identifies rhythmic and pitch notation within specific guidelines
3. Demonstrates knowledge of solfege syllables
4. Identifies chord symbols, major, minor, augmented and diminished triads, chromatic harmony, extended chord symbols, suspended fourth chords, specified bass note chords, altered chords and added note chord
5. Identifies scales and key signatures within specific guidelines
6. Demonstrates understanding of performance directions by composers
7. Demonstrates understanding of changing key: modulation and transposition
8. Demonstrates appropriate knowledge of music theory
9. Identifies the form of pieces being performed
10. Understands harmonic functions of chord progressions and how to build chords
11. Understands what role each musical line has in the texture
12. Demonstrates understanding of the elements of music: listening to music, rhythm, melody, harmony, dynamics and color, musical textures and form and style

4. Students will be exposed to music and music performances from various cultures and eras

1. Demonstrates understanding of how music has influenced world culture and history
2. Demonstrates ability to reflect critically on how music can express meanings, reflect the spirit of its time or exert influence on people's behaviour
3. Identifies principal differences between prescribed songs; makes comparisons about instrumentation and treatment of themes
4. Answers detailed questions about techniques of expression, word painting and how composers/bands handle structure and resources or respond to their texts
5. Communicates understanding, supporting judgments by argument based on evidence
6. Demonstrates appropriate understanding of music in the Middle Ages and Renaissance
7. Demonstrates appropriate understanding of music in the Baroque Period
8. Demonstrates appropriate understanding of music in the Classical Period
9. Demonstrates appropriate understanding of Romanticism

10. Demonstrates appropriate understanding of Modern and Post-modern Art Music
11. Demonstrates appropriate understanding of Rock and Popular Music
12. Demonstrates appropriate understanding of World Music
13. Demonstrates appropriate listening skills