

1st Grade American Online School

MUSIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Moving, Listening, and Singing Together

Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Music Education in 1st Grade

In 1st grade, students learn to experience music with their whole bodies—through movement, rhythm, singing, and creative expression. Music becomes a language of feeling, coordination, memory, and fun. Children build their musical vocabulary and participate in community music-making while exploring sounds from around the world.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Move to, sing, and clap with rhythmic accuracy.
- ✓ Recognize and reproduce simple melodies and musical patterns.
- ✓ Use body and voice as instruments of expression.
- ✓ Explore sound, silence, pitch, and tempo.
- ✓ Experience and respect diverse musical traditions.

2. Core Competence Areas

MUS.1 Music and Movement – “Music Moves”

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Respond physically to changes in beat, tempo, and dynamics.
- ✓ Perform basic movement patterns in sync with music.
- ✓ Create movement to express musical feeling or story.

Competencies

MUS.1.A.1 – Moving to music with body awareness

- March, sway, tiptoe, and stomp to match musical moods and speed.
- Use scarves, ribbons, or hoops to visualize music in space.

MUS.1.A.2 – Expressing rhythm through gesture and dance

- Clap or tap rhythmic patterns and echo movement sequences.
- Create simple dances to tell a story or reflect a song’s theme.

MUS.2 Melody and Singing – “Melodies”

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Sing familiar songs in tune with awareness of pitch changes.
- ✓ Recognize and echo simple melodic patterns.
- ✓ Use singing as a tool for memory and joy.

Competencies

MUS.2.A.1 – Developing pitch awareness

- Sing call-and-response songs like “Rain, Rain, Go Away.”
- Play with solfege (do, re, mi) using hand signs.

MUS.2.A.2 – Learning to lead and echo

- Sing in echo form or in small ensembles.
 - Create a melody line and teach it to peers.
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MUS.3 Rhythm and Beat (Translation of “Rhythm”)

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Identify steady beat and respond with movement or sound.
- ✓ Reproduce and create basic rhythmic patterns using percussion.
- ✓ Differentiate between long and short sounds.

Competencies

MUS.3.A.1 – Feeling and keeping the beat

- Use body percussion (clap, pat, snap) to stay on beat.
- Play instruments like rhythm sticks, shakers, and tambourines.

MUS.3.A.2 – Exploring rhythm creatively

- Compose simple rhythmic phrases using icons or pictures.
 - Perform rhythmic chants and playground rhymes.
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MUS.4 Listening and Sound Exploration – “Sounds and Songs”

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- ✓ Identify loud/soft, high/low, and fast/slow sounds.
- ✓ Recognize patterns in familiar songs.
- ✓ Describe instruments and sound sources from daily life.

Competencies

MUS.4.A.1 – Exploring sound through listening games

- Use listening maps and “mystery sound” games.
- Match sounds to images and describe how they feel.

MUS.4.A.2 – Describing and categorizing sound

- Sort instruments by family (e.g., percussion vs. wind).
- Draw soundscapes based on music heard.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Interactive and Observational

- ✓ Daily rhythm and movement response activities.
- ✓ Singing voice check-ins during circle time.
- ✓ Peer and teacher feedback on class performances.

Summative Assessments – Presentation and Creation

- ✓ Solo or small-group song performances.
- ✓ Original rhythm pattern presentation.
- ✓ Instrument matching or sound recognition chart.

Authentic Assessment – Joyful and Reflective Application

- ✓ Sound journal or listening log.
- ✓ “My Favorite Song” artwork + reflection.
- ✓ Student-created rhythm chant or group music routine.

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Movement-Centered and Sensory Rich

- ✓ Use scarves, instruments, and visual props.
- ✓ Connect music to feelings and weather.

Integrative and Inclusive

- ✓ Pair music lessons with ELA (lyrics), PE (movement), and Art (visual sound).
- ✓ Celebrate every voice—no “wrong notes” in 1st grade music!

Culturally Diverse and Joy-Filled

- ✓ Feature songs and instruments from around the world.
- ✓ Promote music as a universal language of connection.



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