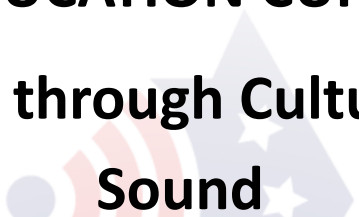


6th Grade American Online School

MUSIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Exploring Music through Culture, History, and Sound



Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Music Education in 6th Grade

The 6th Grade Music curriculum introduces students to music as a global language that communicates across time, cultures, and personal stories. Students learn to read music, understand rhythm and melody, explore the history of American music, and connect storytelling with musical expression. By exploring instruments, traditions, and stories from cultures around the world—especially the Middle East—students build musical literacy, cultural awareness, and artistic confidence.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Read basic musical notation and perform rhythmic patterns.
 - ✓ Identify key genres and figures in American music history.
 - ✓ Compose short pieces that tell stories through music.
 - ✓ Explore instruments, scales, and rhythms from Middle Eastern traditions.
 - ✓ Reflect on music's role in identity, storytelling, and social change.
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2. Core Competence Areas

MUS.1 Music Literacy and Notation

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Read and interpret rhythmic and melodic notation on the staff.
- ✓ Understand musical symbols, tempo markings, and dynamics.
- ✓ Perform short notated passages using voice or instruments.

Competencies

MUS.1.A.1 – Reading and writing rhythmic patterns.

- Clap and perform quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes and rests.
- Compose and notate basic 4/4 and 3/4 measures using rhythm cards.

MUS.1.A.2 – Understanding melodic notation and pitch.

- Read pitches on treble clef; identify steps and skips.
- Use solfège syllables (Do, Re, Mi) to sing and decode melodies.

MUS.2 History of American Music

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Trace the roots and evolution of key American music styles.
- ✓ Recognize influential artists and their cultural impact.
- ✓ Compare how different genres reflect social and historical movements.

Competencies

MUS.2.A.1 – Exploring genres and origins.

- Study spirituals, jazz, blues, rock, hip-hop, and pop.
- Create timelines of key events and musical innovations.

MUS.2.A.2 – Connecting music to American identity and struggle.

- Analyze songs from the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam era, and modern activism.
 - Reflect on how artists use music to express identity, protest, and resilience.
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MUS.3 Music and Storytelling

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Use music to convey emotion, narrative, and atmosphere.
- ✓ Compose original soundscapes and story scores.
- ✓ Identify how composers create character and mood in music.

Competencies

MUS.3.A.1 – Telling stories with sound.

- Compose short musical pieces to represent a scene, character, or journey.
- Use percussion and voice to convey setting and suspense.

MUS.3.A.2 – Analyzing music in media and folktales.

- Study music in film, theater, and animated shorts.
 - Compare traditional tales with musical retellings from diverse cultures.
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MUS.4 Global Music Focus: Middle East

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Explore instruments, modes, and rhythms from Middle Eastern music.
- ✓ Understand the cultural significance of music in storytelling and ritual.
- ✓ Participate in cross-cultural musical appreciation and reflection.

Competencies

MUS.4.A.1 – Learning traditional instruments and patterns.

- Identify the oud, darbuka, ney, and qanun.
- Clap and play simple maqam-based rhythmic patterns.

MUS.4.A.2 – Exploring culture through sound.

- Listen to music from Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iran.
 - Compare cultural contexts and musical expressions of celebration, prayer, and storytelling.
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3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Skill Development and Reflection

- ✓ Sight-reading drills and rhythm games.
- ✓ Listening journals and musical response sheets.
- ✓ Mini-performances and sound composition sketches.

Summative Assessments – Project Demonstrations

- ✓ Historical genre research presentations.
- ✓ Storytelling soundtrack compositions.
- ✓ Cultural comparison written or visual essays.

Authentic Assessment – Expression and Integration

- ✓ Personal music identity poster or playlist.
 - ✓ “My Soundtrack” digital media project.
 - ✓ Middle Eastern music interpretation with student-led Q&A.
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4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Inquiry-Based and Exploratory Music Learning

- ✓ Start with essential questions: “What does this music mean?”.
- ✓ Let students pose questions about sounds, culture, and emotion.

Creative Practice and Rehearsal Culture

- ✓ Encourage improvisation and layered rhythm exploration.
- ✓ Use call-and-response and layered percussion circles.

Cultural and Digital Integration

- ✓ Use YouTube, Smithsonian Folkways, and NPR Tiny Desk.
- ✓ Digital tools: Soundtrap, Audacity, GarageBand for creation.

Learning Culture

- ✓ Celebrate diverse musical traditions and student voices.
- ✓ Foster risk-taking in performance and creative tasks.
- ✓ Reflect on music's power to move, heal, and tell stories.

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