

8th Grade American Online School

MUSIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Listening, Expressing, Creating – Finding Your Voice Through Music

Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Music Education in 8th Grade

The 8th Grade Music curriculum empowers students to explore and express their identities through musical engagement. Integrating listening, performance, theory, and creative composition, this course cultivates musical literacy, critical thinking, and collaborative performance skills. Students are exposed to diverse genres, historical and cultural perspectives, and modern digital tools, supporting them in developing their unique musical voices and understanding the role of music in society.

By the end of this course, students will:

- ✓ Understand and differentiate musical genres and traditions.
- ✓ Develop vocal and ensemble performance skills.
- ✓ Apply basic music theory in listening and performance.
- ✓ Create and refine original musical compositions.
- ✓ Critically interpret music's meaning, mood, and structure.
- ✓ Use technology to compose, produce, and share music.

2. Core Competence Areas

MUS.1 Musical Appreciation and Genre Exploration

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Identify musical styles and describe their characteristics.
- ✓ Reflect on personal listening preferences and emotional responses.
- ✓ Analyze music as a product of time, place, and culture.

Competencies

MUS.1.A.1 – Identifying & comparing musical genres across history and culture.

MUS.1.A.2 – Analyzing how music influences and reflects emotions and identity.

MUS.1.A.3 – Exploring how music evolves with cultural and technological shifts.

MUS.1.A.4 – Comparing global music traditions through rhythm, melody, and instrumentation.

MUS.2 Vocal and Ensemble Performance

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Demonstrate proper vocal technique and musical expression.
- ✓ Collaborate in vocal ensemble settings with blend and balance.
- ✓ Reflect on and improve personal performance.

Competencies

MUS.2.A.1 – Developing breath support, pitch accuracy, and posture.

MUS.2.A.2 – Singing with expression using phrasing and dynamics.

MUS.2.A.3 – Blending voice in ensemble performance through active listening.

MUS.2.A.4 – Evaluating performance and applying feedback constructively.

MUS.3 Music Theory and Aural Skills

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Interpret rhythmic and melodic notation.
- ✓ Recognize musical structures and harmonic patterns.
- ✓ Develop ear training and sight-singing skills

Competencies

MUS.3.A.1 – Reading staff notation, rhythms, and dynamic markings.

MUS.3.A.2 – Identifying musical forms and harmonic structures.

MUS.3.A.3 – Developing aural skills to recognize intervals and rhythm patterns.

MUS.3.A.4 – Applying theoretical knowledge in interpretation and improvisation.

MUS.4 Creative Composition and Songwriting

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Compose original melodies and lyrics.
- ✓ Use digital tools to structure and present musical ideas.
- ✓ Reflect on creative work and share with others.

Competencies

MUS.4.A.1 – Writing original melodies and simple chord progressions.

MUS.4.A.2 – Creating lyrics that communicate emotional or narrative content.

MUS.4.A.3 – Using entry-level digital tools (e.g., Soundtrap, BandLab) to produce music.

MUS.4.A.4 – Revising compositions and preparing for performance or peer sharing.

MUS.5 Critical Listening and Music Literacy

Learning Outcomes

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

- ✓ Analyze how music creates mood and meaning.
- ✓ Compare interpretations of musical works.
- ✓ Evaluate music in media contexts.

Competencies

MUS.5.A.1 – Analyzing music for structure, mood, and artistic intent.

MUS.5.A.2 – Comparing different performances of the same work.

MUS.5.A.3 – Giving and receiving constructive feedback using musical terminology.

MUS.5.A.4 – Exploring music’s role in media and its emotional influence.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Checking Progress Through Interactive Learning

- ✓ Music journals, rhythmic dictation, and composition drafts.
- ✓ Practice reflections and notation exercises.
- ✓ Active listening logs and peer feedback sessions.

Summative Assessments – Demonstrate Mastery

- ✓ Solo and group performance evaluations.
- ✓ Theory quizzes and listening analyses.
- ✓ Final composition projects with reflection and critique.

Authentic Assessment – Real-World Applications

- ✓ Rehearsals and ensemble showcases.
- ✓ Original composition and lyric presentation.
- ✓ Comparative genre study project.
- ✓ Soundtrack analysis of film, game, or media sequence.

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Inquiry-Based and Problem-Based Learning

- ✓ Emphasize music-making through regular singing, instrument play, and composing.
- ✓ Use call-and-response, repetition, and ensemble coordination.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

- ✓ Provide step-by-step demonstrations and layered skill development.

Technology-Integrated Learning

- ✓ Use Noteflight, Soundtrap, and GarageBand, etc. for digital composition.
- ✓ Assign listening analysis through Spotify, YouTube, and interactive playlists.
- ✓ Capture performances or feedback using Flipgrid or video portfolios.

Inclusive Learning Environment

- ✓ Celebrate diverse musical expressions and voices.
- ✓ Foster a safe space for creative risk-taking and experimentation.
- ✓ Encourage mutual respect and constructive critique during collaboration.