



NEST+m Middle Grades Music Curriculum Plan

Course: Music, Grades 6-8

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Greetings! And welcome to all of our students, both new and returning!

We are excited to begin this year of music making here at NEST+m.

This course is a performance based class where all students will learn how to play an instrument. As a concert band program, students may choose an instrument from the brass, woodwind, or percussion families. (See the class syllabus for specific instrument choices).

NEST+m does not offer a string program. String players, do not despair: there are after-school options and, by permission of the instructor, some string players do continue on their instrument in our concert band program. Consult your teacher if this might apply to you.

Through playing music, students will discover many new skills by way of performance practice, active listening, thoughtful discussion, and the exposure to new sounds, artists, and styles. While music history and theory are not the focus of our journey, they will be addressed when it serves or informs the music we are studying.

While there is a strong focus on music performance and mastery of the material, we strive to create an environment where students have a positive experience. Music is fun. Music is a creative pursuit. If we can teach students to love making music and to learn a new skill or two (like playing an instrument) along the way, we consider this journey a success.

The Middle Grades Music Curriculum is aligned with the NYC Blueprint for the Arts, the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts, and the National Core Arts Standards.

Learning Objectives for Middle Grades:

1. To integrate elements of music and notation through performance.
2. To express themselves as musicians through performance, improvisation, and composition.
3. To apply instrumental technique to interpret music.
4. To develop leadership skills by sharing performance, ensemble, and class responsibilities.
5. To model music-making procedures and behaviors in the classroom and on the stage.

Units of Study: (Experiences will vary depending on the grade level. See your grade curriculum map for specifics)

1. Ensemble performance: learning marches, classical literature, contest pieces, and popular song.
 2. Small group work; duos, trios, and quartets: exploring the repertoire
 3. Solo work: from folk songs to contest selections. Grade eight: the high school audition.
 4. Major Scales and Arpeggios: the building blocks for composition and improvisation.
 5. Reflection: how to analyze, critique, and write about music. Developing a vocabulary.

Assessment: (the percentages vary by grade)

1. Attendance.
 2. Preparation and Preparedness
 3. In-class performance quizzes
 4. Music binder (or folder) checks
 5. Major Scales and Arpeggio quizzes
 6. Written responses and reflection (both in class and homework).

If you have questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to reach out. Both Mr. McGorry and I looking forward to meeting everyone (or hearing from you).

Sincerely,

Pieter Voorhees & Craig McGorry
Room 069 Room 120