

Music (PreK – 8th Grade)

Academic Content & Skills Summary

Peru Elementary School District 124

In an effort to communicate clear academic expectations to students, parents and the local community, Peru Elementary School District 124 provides Academic Content and Skills Summaries from preschool through eighth grade in the areas of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, technology, art, music and physical education.

Following is a simple summary of what our children should know and be able to do at each grade level in the area of Music. All children can learn, even if not at the same pace or in the same way, and ultimately these general skills and content items are what we will strive to accomplish with the assistance of our parents at home.

Pre-School students will:

- Actively explore music through singing, movement, listening, games, playing instruments and stories.
- Experience a wide range of tonalities (such as major, minor, and modal scales,) and rhythmic meters.
- Practice using our voices with exploration sounds, songs without words, songs with words, and begin to develop an awareness of a gentle, singing voice.
- Move to the steady beat using body movement and instruments.
- Actively and cooperatively participate in all group activities.
- Develop a love of music.

Kindergarten students will:

- Actively explore music through singing, movement, listening, games, playing instruments and stories.
- Explore contrasts (fast/slow, loud/soft, high/low) and how they are used to create feelings.
- Discover the different ways we use our voices through vocal exploration sounds and songs with words to begin developing a gentle, singing voice.
- Move to the steady beat using body movement and instruments.
- Read picture notation for music that shows high/low and long/short sounds.
- Actively and cooperatively participate in all group activities.
- Develop a love of music.

1st Grade students will:

- Actively explore music through singing, movement, listening, games, playing instruments and stories.
- Explore contrasts (fast/slow, loud/soft, high/low, same/different) and how they are used to create feelings and musical forms.
- Continued practice developing a gentle singing voice using vocal exploration and songs with words.
- Move to the steady beat using body movement and instruments.

1st Grade (continued) students will:

- Read simple rhythms for quarter notes, half note pairs, and quarter rests using nicknames.
- Read simple melodic notation using 2-3 note examples as well as short songs.
- Listen to a variety of musical compositions and learn about the orchestra families using simple vocabulary.
- Write simple, musical compositions as a group.
- Actively and cooperatively participate in all group activities.
- Develop a love of music.

2nd Grade students will:

- Actively participate in musical activities through singing, movement, listening, games, and playing instruments.
- Reinforce skills from previous years about contrasts (fast/slow, loud/soft, high/low, same/different) and how they are used to create feelings and musical forms.
- Continued practice in developing a gentle singing voice, with more mastery expected.
- Move to the steady beat using body movement and instruments.
- Read simple rhythms for quarter notes, half note pairs, quarter rests, half notes and whole notes using nicknames.
- Read simple melodic notation for known songs that emphasize step-wise movement.
- Listen to a variety of musical compositions and opera. Learn adult vocabulary for orchestra families and differentiation of their sounds.
- Write simple, musical compositions as a group.
- Actively and cooperatively participate in all group activities.
- Develop a love of music.

3rd Grade students will:

- Actively participate in musical activities through singing, movement, listening, games, and playing instruments.
- Continued practice using a gentle singing voice, with a greater mastery and range of notes expected. Developing two part harmony singing is also emphasized.
- Move to the steady beat using body movement and instruments.
- Read simple rhythms for quarter notes, half note pairs, quarter rests, half notes, whole notes, sixteenth notes, plus dotted quarter and half notes using nicknames.
- Read and identify simple melodic notation using hand signs and scale numbers.
- Listen to a variety of orchestral compositions and opera to identify musical forms, describe emotions in music, and understand how other fine arts areas (visual art, drama, dance) can integrate with music.
- Develop understanding of tempo (speed) and dynamics (volume) and how they create expression in music.
- Write simple, musical compositions as a group.
- Actively and cooperatively participate in all group activities.
- Develop a love of music.

4th Grade students will:

- Actively participate in musical activities through singing, movement, listening, games, and playing instruments.
- Continued practice using a gentle singing voice, with a greater mastery and range of notes expected. Greater independence in two part harmony singing is also emphasized.

4th Grade student will (continued):

- Move to the steady beat using body movement and instruments.
- Read simple rhythms for quarter notes, half note pairs, quarter rests, half notes, whole notes, sixteenth notes, plus dotted quarter and half notes using nicknames.
- Read and identify simple melodic notation using hand signs and scale numbers.
- Develop understanding of tempo (speed) and dynamics (volume) and how they create expression in music.
- Develop an understanding of opera and how the other fine arts combine (visual art, drama, dance) to create expression.
- Play simple songs and improvise using a recorder (flute-like instrument.)
- Individually write a simple, musical composition for a recorder.
- Actively and cooperatively participate in all group activities.
- Develop a love of music.

5th Grade students will:

- Evaluate and demonstrate knowledge of composers and their impact on music and society.
- Relate and connect how the lives and stories of the great composers have meaning in their own lives.
- Identify and demonstrate understanding of the symbols of musical notation.
- Write simple musical melodies for the treble clef using varied simple rhythms.
- Compose a musical melody in a blues style using varied rhythms.
- Edit students' own musical composition using a web-based program (NoteFlight.com)
- Compose a multi-track composition with varied instruments using GarageBand on iPads

5th Grade Music is a general music class where students will learn how to write music (compose) in both the traditional musical notation style and also using the modern technology resources available. Students will also study the history of music and society through the study of great composers.

5th Grade (Band) students will:

- Demonstrate consistent playing posture of sitting at end of chair, straight back, feet flat on the floor, and proper guide position for hands on their particular instrument.
- Demonstrate the ability to breath properly for playing a musical instrument, opposite of the normal breathing pattern (breath in quickly, breath out slowly).
- Demonstrate proper playing embouchure (stick technique for percussion) on their particular instrument by using a mirror on their mouthpieces, which is pointed chin, firm mouth corners (except flutes), non-puffy cheeks, properly rolled bottom lip (clarinet & sax only), relaxed bottom lip (flutes only), and wrist only movement (percussion only).
- Perform Bb and F scale and arpeggios with correct notes (#88 & #96 in Standard of Excellence Book 1).
- Perform multiple songs with sharps, flats, multiple eighth note rhythms, and quarter/half/dotted half notes accurately (examples #61, #84, Sawmill Creek in Standard of Excellence Book 1).
- Perform as a performing ensemble music with differing melodies and harmonies and be able to perform independently as a section (examples Montego Bay, Regal March, Frere Jacques round, Brother Martin round).

5th Grade Beginning Band students will develop skills to play a wind or percussion instrument with proper playing posture, effective air support, developed embouchure, and ability to read musical notation.

6th Grade students will:

- Experience a variety of works from different cultures to understand the people and ideas of divergent societies.
- Listen to and examine a variety of World Music to identify and classify by specific characteristics.
- Use classroom instruments to explore musical patterns in groups and independently.
- Develop listening skills to describe in simple terms how elements of music are used in the music of various cultures.
- Identify and describe roles of musicians in various music settings and cultures.

World Music is a general music course offered to students in Grade 6 to gain Fine Arts experience through music appreciation in a non-performance environment. Students study the elements of music through critical listening, composition, and performance of music from various world cultures.

6th Grade (Band) students will:

- Continue to demonstrate further consistency in playing posture, embouchure development, and hand guide position on wind and percussion instruments.
- Demonstrate an expanded range of notes on their instrument (ex. clarinets in the clarion register, brass on flexibility on high notes, percussion rudiments, etc).
- Play from memory the 3 main band scales (Concert Bb, Eb, & F).
- Demonstrate more difficult rhythms in an ensemble setting (dotted quarter notes, sixteenth notes, etc).
- Develop and demonstrate a beginning understanding of intonation and how embouchure, air support, and instrument mechanics affect intonation.
- Perform as a performing ensemble more difficult band arrangement music, with varying melodies and harmonies both as a whole section and within each individual section, and with a beginning understanding of music expressive elements (dynamics, articulations, style, etc).
- Perform music in small ensemble groups (duets, trios, quartets, etc) with independent, individual parts for each member of the ensemble.

6th Grade Intermediate Band students will develop more independent skills to perform wind or percussion instruments in both an ensemble setting and also in solo settings.

7th Grade students will:

- Listen to and analyze musical examples representing diverse genres, styles, and cultures, using appropriate music terminology.
- Critique music in terms of how it is used to evoke feelings and emotions in daily life, movies, media, and other settings.
- Understand how music has affected the culture and tradition in the United States.
- Understand how technology has contributed to the evolution of music.
- Create short musical pieces using modern technology.

Music in Society is a general music course offered to students in Grade 7 to gain an understanding of music in relation to history and culture, other disciplines, 21st century skills and life through a series of projects.

7th and 8th Grade (Band) students will:

- Continue to demonstrate appropriate playing posture, proper embouchures, and hand guide position automatically and be able to model those concepts for younger band students.
- Demonstrate a minimum 2-octave range of notes on their instrument.
- Play from memory scales with key signatures from 3 flats to 3 sharps (based from Concert Bb), plus a 1-2 octave chromatic scale.
- Demonstrate a more advanced knowledge of intonation by use of aural listening and identifying specific intonation tendencies of each instrument.
- Perform as a performing ensemble more advanced music with multiple rhythmic and harmonic layers and with more elaborate and sensitive musical expression.
- Continue to perform music in small ensemble groups (duets, trios, quarters, etc) with more difficult musical notation and expressive qualities.
- Model and instruct younger 5th grade band students on the process of playing their particular instrument and strategies on how to improve.

7th and 8th Grade Advanced Band students will demonstrate the ability to perform high-quality music literature and be able to mentor and teach younger, inexperienced band students on how to improve on their instrument.

5th through 8th Grade (Choir) students will:

- Experience a variety of choral styles and composers through music performed, attempting to achieve appropriate artistic interpretation
- Develop part-singing, music reading, and theory through a graduated program
- Advance and demonstrate healthy vocal techniques with appropriate posture, breath control, proper phonation, and resonance
- Develop and demonstrate necessary choral techniques including proper balance, blend, intonation, tone quality, and diction
- Participate in culminating performances

Choir is a performance ensemble offered to students who wish to sing throughout their four years. Students will perform appropriate literature to further develop their maturing voices, musicality and proficiency in sight and rhythm reading. Classes meet twice a week. The choral program consists of 5th Grade Choir, 6th Grade Choir, and Concert Choir (7th/8th) and is open to anyone. The Singing Raiders is an auditioned group open to 7th and 8th graders.

8th Grade (Stagecraft) students will:

- Collaborate with peers through creating and performing
- Demonstrate mutual respect for self and others and their roles in drama/theatre work
- Engage in the rehearsal process and develop effective physical and vocal traits of characters
- Explore different pacing to better communicate
- Participate in a variety of acting exercises and techniques
- Use video technology to create projects

An 8th grade course designed to help students become more comfortable, expressive, creative, articulate, and more aware of their habits when they speak in front of others through a variety of activities. (Ex. public speaking, theatrical performance, script reading, and improvisation).