

Department: Performing Arts
Course Name: Exploring Band 5

Course Description:

Exploring Band is a nine-week introductory course designed to introduce students to instrumental music study and the foundations of ensemble performance. The course provides a broad overview of the band program while helping students build the readiness skills needed for Beginning Band. Students actively explore all band instruments, learning how sound is produced and how each instrument family contributes to the ensemble. Through guided hands-on experiences, demonstrations, and structured rotation, students become familiar with woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments to support informed instrument selection in future study. Instruction introduces core musical concepts including steady beat, rhythm, tone quality, melody, harmony, balance, and expressive elements. Students engage in listening, singing, movement, and basic music reading activities that develop musical awareness and foundational literacy. The course emphasizes cooperation, respectful rehearsal habits, and collaborative music-making. Students participate in informal in-class performances and demonstrations, developing confidence and teamwork while experiencing the shared process of making music together.

Content:

Critique – Peer Review; Self Analysis
Creative Integrity – Produce Original Work; Emulate Style/Technique
Content Vocabulary
Technology as a Tool
Composition
Meter – Duple
Utilities – Transposition
Staff/Clefs – Treble; Percussion; Bass
Key Signature – Sharps; Flats
Measure Attributes – Bar Lines; Double Bar; Finale Bar
Articulations – Slur; Tie; Staccato; Accent; Accent w/Staccato; Stress; Fermata
Posture – Body; Instrument
Instrument – Anatomy; Mechanics
Sound – Tube Length; Pitch Alteration
Breathing
Musicality – Phrasing; Taper; Balance; Blend; Unison; Divisi; LH; RH
Repeat – Forward Repeat; Back Repeat; Back Ending; 1st & 2nd endings
Scales – Major, Chromatic
Rudiments – Single Stroke; Multiple Bounce Roll; Double Stroke
Intervals – Major; Minor; Perfect; Half Step; Whole Step
Chords – Major; Minor; Triad
Notation (Notes/Rests) – Double Whole; Whole; Dotted Half; Half; Dotted Quarter; Quarter; Dotted 8th; 8th; Dotted 16th; 16th; Dotted 32nd; 32nd
Accidentals – Sharp; Flat; Natural
Dynamics – ffff; fff; ff; f; mf; mp; p; pp; ppp; pppp; fp; fz; sf; sfz; sffz; subito p; subito f
Expressive Text
Tempo

Skills:

Learn the appropriate techniques for assembly, tone production, fingerings and reading music.
Develop self-discipline and individual initiative through individual practice and group rehearsal.
Establish and reinforce collaborative skills.

Text and Materials:

Rush, Scott, Jeff Scott, and Kevin Boyle. 2020. *Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician*.
Edited by Marguerite Wilder. GIA Publications, Inc.

Various Music Literature as selected by the Instructor.

Methods of Instruction:

Individual, partner, and group rehearsal
Teacher-directed instruction

Methods of Evaluation

Participation
Playing Assessments

