Musical Skills & Vocabulary

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s): **Music in Education**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **Over-Arching**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

This unit seeks to continue to build upon the previous years of study when it comes to musical literacy and vocabulary. In this unit students will begin reading rhythms that include 8th notes, as well as, whole, half, quarter, and 8th note rests. Students will also begin to use techniques of improvisation, ostinati, and composition.

Standards

VPA.1.1.2.B.1	Explore the elements of music through verbal and written responses to diverse aural prompts and printed scores.
VPA.1.1.2.B.2	Identify musical elements in response to diverse aural prompts, such as rhythm, timbre, dynamics, form, and melody.
VPA.1.1.2.B.4	Categorize families of instruments and identify their associated musical properties.
VPA.1.3.2.B.3	Demonstrate correct playing techniques for Orff instruments or equivalent homemade instruments.
VPA.1.3.2.B.5	Improvise short tonal and rhythmic patterns over ostinatos, and modify melodic or rhythmic patterns using selected notes and/or scales to create expressive ideas.
VPA.1.3.2.B.6	Sing or play simple melodies or rhythmic accompaniments in AB and ABA forms independently and in groups, and sight-read rhythmic and music notation up to and including eighth notes and rests in a major scale.

Essential Questions

- What is improvisation? How do people that imrovise know what to play?
- How do we begin to write our own music?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- 8th notes are a subdivision of the beat, half the value of a quarter note.
- each type of note (whole, half, quarter, 8th) has an equal rest.
- improvisation is the process of coming up with melodies on the spot without written music.
- ostinato is a repeated rhythmic pattern.

Application of Skills: Students will be able to...

- clap, perform (on Orff instruments) rhythms using whole - 8th notes and whole - 8th rests.
- compose short melodic fragments using whole - 8th notes.
- identify and read accidentals (flats and sharps).
- improvise original melodies over ostinato patterns.
- play and compose their own ostinato patterns.
- read and sing notes using solfege syllables and hand signals.

Assessments

- Have students successfully demonstrate the ability to sing short melodies individually and/or with a small group.
- Have students successfully demonstrate fundamentals of improvisation by performing improvisations on Orff instruments.
- Written original compositions of ostinato patterns, as well as, melodies that include whole - 8th note rhythms and whole - 8th note rests.

Suggested Activities

- Have students perform their improvisations and ostinato patterns using the Orff instruments in a drum circle. Have them improvise over ostinato patterns either by the teacher or other students.
- Use common songs, "Welcome" songs, or familiar melodies to reinforce solfege syllables and hand signals.
- Use "movable do" for solfege when learning accidentals.
- Address compositional techniques by using a variety of written musical examples and reinforcing musical literacy.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- For students that may have trouble improvising, give a limited number of improvisational options (use 1 or 2 note combinations only).
- For students successful with improvising, issue a greater challenge (more note and rhythmic combinations).
- Use board (white, chalk, Smart board, etc.) to notate songs that they may know or have practiced, so that they get used to seeing written notation.
- Make listening and describing music a normal part of classroom routine and discussion.

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Math: Fractions - note reading and sub divisions of beat.

Resources

http://www.musick8.com/html/idearesults.php?redir=y

www.musicfirst.org

http://makingmusicfun.net/htm/f_mmf_music_library/mi-do-do-game-an-introduction-to-solfege.htm

http://www.parkslopemusiclessons.com/teaching-kids-how-to-read-music-using-solfege-hand-signs-kinesthetic-learning/