Piano Skills

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s): **Music in Education**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **20 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

The purpose of this unit is to give students a basic understanding of one of the most fundamental musical instruments, the keyboard. This is a half year unit intended to start during the 2nd half of the school year. This will be the pre-cursor to a full-year Grade 3 unit that further develops basic keyboarding skills. Keyboarding skills are a fundamental part of developing overall musicianship as they help to build skills in musical literacy, understanding note relationships, and performance.

Standards

VPA.1.3.2.B.1	Clap, sing, or play on pitch from basic notation in the treble clef, with consideration of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and tempo.
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

- How does learning the keyboard help us with other parts of music?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- keyboards lay out each of the notes of the staff in order from left to right.
- middle C is the central note of the keyboard and is where students will begin learning the layout of the keyboard.
- their fingers are labeled 1-5 to help identify which fingers are used in a piece of music.

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

- name and locate middle C, as well as, each of their fingers.
- play basic 5 finger patterns starting on middle C.
- play simple right hand melodies with accurate notes and rhythms.
- sit with proper playing posture.

Assessments

- Successfully locating Middle C and identifying their fingerings.
- Ability to play a simple melody using the right-hand.

Suggested Activities

- Have students label notes of the keyboard on a separate sheet or diagram to have them better understand the note layout.
- Use 5 finger exercises starting on Middle C to develop muscle memory and common patterns.

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- For students that excel, give additional exercises using black keys or in some cases the left hand as well.
- For students struggling, give ample time, slower tempos, and individual instruction (when possible).

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Math: Pattern Recognition - keyboard layout and finger patterns

Resources

Alfred Ulitmate Beginner Keyboard Series

Faber Piano Adventures

Bastien Piano Basics