# Piano Skills

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

## Unit Overview

The purpose of this unit is to expand on the basic principles of the keyboard that was started at the end of Grade 2. Students will begin to read music on the Grand Staff, follow musical directions (dynamics, repeats, articulations), and add (when possible) the left hand. This is full-year unit where students will develop further knowledge of one of the most fundamental instruments, the keyboard. Knowledge of the keyboard is essential for understanding intervals, basic harmony, and the structures of music.

## Standards

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| VPA.1.1.5.B.1 | Identify the elements of music in response to aural prompts and printed music notational systems. |
| VPA.1.1.5.B.2 | Demonstrate the basic concepts of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords, and melodic and harmonic progressions, and differentiate basic structures. |
| VPA.1.3.5.B.1 | Sing or play music from complex notation, using notation systems in treble and bass clef, mixed meter, and compound meter. |
| VPA.1.3.5.B.CS3 | Music composition is governed by prescribed rules and forms that apply to both improvised and scored music. |
| VPA.1.3.5.B.CS4 | Decoding musical scores requires understanding of notation systems, the elements of music, and basic compositional concepts. |

## Essential Questions

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

## Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- playing with the left hand and the right hand together takes a great deal of practice and coordination.
- the articulations, directions, and fingerings all contribute to the overall feel and totality of a piece of music.
- the black and white keys of the keyboard are laid out in a specific pattern that correlates to the music on the staff.

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

- identify the structure and layout of the keyboard (black keys and white keys).
- interpret a musical score by reading and performing the directions listed (tempos, articulations, etc).
- interpret articulations and fingerings from written notation.
- perform short pieces of keyboard music using the right and left hand.

## Assessments

- Individual and/or group performances of songs in the keyboard book.
- Written diagrams of the piano keyboard layout.

## Suggested Activities

- Set aside individual practice time (with headphones) for students to practice.
- Group warm-up exercises to get students playing together and in time.

## Activities to Differentiate Instruction

- Slow down or modify parts for students that are struggling.
- Elaborate on parts for students that are exceeding expectations.
- For student that may not have regular access to a keyboard, print out large scale keyboards to have silent practice for fingerings.

## Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Math: Pattern recognition & fractions (note-reading)

## Resources

Bastien - Beginning Piano Series

Faber - Piano for Young Students