

# Unit 4: Timbre/Introduction to Instruments

Content Area: **Unified Arts**  
Course(s): **Music 1**  
Time Period: **October**  
Length: **35 Weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Summary

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Students will use age-appropriate instruments during weekly music classes as a tool to further their knowledge of curriculum concepts. Instruments are an engaging way to solidify steady beat, rhythmic notation, melodic notation, improvisation, composing, active listening, etc. Our instrument collection includes a wide variety of miscellaneous pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments. We will explore barred Orff instruments, handbells, boomwhackers, a large variety of drums, and our digital piano. We will also discover instruments utilizing tech tools such as our classroom iPads. Throughout the school year, students will experience listening activities to further their enjoyment and knowledge of instruments, including works of music by prominent composers from varying time periods and cultures.

## Student Learning Objectives

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Students will learn ...

- Independent and cooperative playing skills
- To recognize timbre
- To keep a steady beat
- To perform rhythm
- To perform tempo
- To perform dynamics
- To perform and recognize various forms
- Correct technique
- To improve fine and gross motor skills
- To identify the difference between pitched vs. unpitched instruments
- About the four families of instruments: Stringed Instruments, Brass Instruments, Woodwind Instruments. Percussion Instruments

## Essential Questions

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- How can playing classroom instruments make me a more independent and knowledgeable musician?
- How do the materials and sizes of instruments effect their sound and pitch?
- What are the correct ways to play each instrument?

## Enduring Understandings

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Students will understand that ...

- Instruments are a tool to further understanding of newly presently musical concepts
- Playing an instrument brings joy and excitement
- Instruments help musicians gain confidence and independence while performing individual parts in an ensemble setting
- All instruments have specific names, timbre, and characteristics

- Instruments can be pitched or unpitched

## Application

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Students will be able to independently use their learning to ...

- Identify instruments by name
- Compose
- Read notation
- Improvise
- Keep a steady beat
- Play rhythmic and melodic phrases with accuracy
- Perform both independently and in a group setting

## Skills

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Students will be skilled at ...

- Playing with correct technique
- Identifying names of instruments
- Performing written notation
- Creating sound stories
- Performing various forms
- Maintaining a steady beat and tempo
- Matching timbre and dynamics of classmates
- Using active listening skills
- Improvising
- Playing both cooperatively and independently

## Resources

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- Student materials
- Teacher materials
- Technology apps (i.e. GarageBand, The Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra)
- Professional Texts
- Lesson plans
- Quality classroom instruments
- Audio equipment
- Listening Maps
- Library of Listening Samples from Varying Cultures and Time Periods
- Professional Organization Resources
- Teacher Collaboration Sharing Sites and Social Media Resources

- Practice Website Links on Mrs. Repsher's CTSD Teacher Page