

# Unit 01: Social and Personal Development through Music-Making

Content Area: **Music**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **ongoing**  
Status: **Published**

## Brief Summary of Unit

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Music is a basic function of human existence and connects people socially and emotionally. Music also allows individuals to communicate and express their own ideas and feelings. Students will engage in the choir experience, creating their own community of singers, preparing and performing music in various situations as professional musicians. They will explore and reflect on the ways that being part of a community and sharing their gifts with others can be enriching for themselves and those around them.

## Transfer

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## Essential Questions

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- • What and who can we become together through music?
- • Who are we and how does music affect us as human beings?

## Essential Understandings

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- • building relationships with their peers brings about collaboration and shared ownership in rehearsal and performance.
- • demonstrating professionalism in all they do will benefit their interactions with others for the rest of their lives.
- • engaging with the Arts helps us understand our selves and those around us.
- • everyone is a musician and every member of the ensemble plays an essential role in the collective music-making.
- • music-making builds strong social relationships and draws people together.
- • the Arts can enrich the lives of all people, every day.

## Students Will Know

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- • how music enhances our lives and our world.
- • key terms and vocabulary including professionalism, meaningful engagement, community,

communication, collaboration, shared ownership.

- • the elements of music through which the composer and performers communicate meaning to the audience.
- • the traits exhibited by music professionals and how to demonstrate them.

## **Students Will Be Skilled At**

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## **Evidence/Performance Tasks**

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- • collaborate with peers in learning musical parts, performing, and creating various projects.
- • define and explain the concept of community and its importance in music and the world.
- • demonstrate aspects of professionalism in rehearsing and performing.
- • explore and reflect on the essential questions through discussions and journaling.
- • identify and share personal areas of strength (musical and non-musical) that benefit the choir community.
- • identify areas of personal of weakness (musical and non-musical) that could be improved and find ways to improve and develop these abilities and skills.
- • identify ways music affects our society and our world.
- • offer personal reflections, critique, and analysis during discussion for the benefit of the choir through evidenced based accountable talk to inform and/or persuade.

## **Learning Plan**

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- • Allow students to draw upon their own personal experiences in discussing, describing, and making decisions about music. Encourage students to share these varied ideas and insights with the class in discussion or in presentation.
- • Engage students in reflection and discussion about the meaning of the selected repertoire. What does it say to them as performers, to the audience, to the world? What common human response do many have to this music? Why? How can this music make a difference? What specific elements of the musical repertoire become important in eliciting an emotional and aesthetic response?
- • Engage students in several performances over the course of the year, including a community service performance, in which they not only demonstrate their musical work, but their collaborative efforts as well. Afterwards, in verbal and written reflection, students discuss the importance of the work they have done and the meaning it has in the world.
- • Ongoing discussion also occurs concerning community. How is the manner in which people come together to sing choral music a model for the world? What does it mean to us in our lives? How can we bring about change through building community?
- • Ongoing discussion occurs concerning professionalism, what it means in a choral rehearsal and performance, but also what it means in the world. What does professionalism mean to people in different fields?
- • Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the course.
- • Provide opportunities for smaller groups of students to work together in sectionals or for other

projects, often with student leaders running rehearsal, in order to build relationships between choir members and promote an understanding that each member is essential to the success of the choir.

- • Students work together preparing choral repertoire. Teacher facilitates a classroom environment of professionalism, care, compassion, and respect, so students may form strong working relationships and find comfort and joy in performing together.

## **Materials**

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## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

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- • Allow students to choose from several journal, essay, or discussion prompts and allow for multiple methods of response.
- • Promote a warm, open classroom environment where students feel comfortable in sharing their strengths and weaknesses, and all students acknowledge each other's individual talents and abilities.