Unit 4: Development of Vocal Technique

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

Brief Summary of Unit

Students will continue to cultivate and refine their understanding and use of conventional and healthy vocal techniques, including alignment, breathing, support, resonance, diction, and tone color. Special attention will be given to more advanced breathing techniques, including vocal support through balanced breathing.

Revised June 2025

ELD standards:https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYv1Nu4/edit

1	Self-Awareness
P.1	Act as a responsible and contributing community members and employee.
P.4	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
P.5	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2	Self-Management
3	Social Awareness
1.3C.12acc.Pr4	Selecting, analyzing and interpreting work.
1.3C.12acc.Pr4a	Develop and apply criteria to select a varied repertoire to study and perform based on an understanding of theoretical and structural characteristics and expressive challenges in the music, the technical skill of the individual or ensemble, and the purpose and context of the performance.
1.3C.12acc.Pr4b	Document and demonstrate, using music reading skills (where appropriate), how compositional devices employed, and theoretical and structural aspects of musical works, may impact and inform prepared and improvised performances.
1.3C.12acc.Pr4c	Demonstrate how understanding the style, genre and context of a varied repertoire of music influences prepared and improvised performances as well as performers' technical skills to connect with the audience.
1.3C.12acc.Pr5	Developing and refining techniques and models or steps needed to create products.
1.3C.12acc.Pr5a	Develop and apply appropriate rehearsal strategies to address individual and ensemble challenges in a varied repertoire of music and evaluate their success.
1.3C.12acc.Pr6	Conveying meaning through art.
1.3C.12acc.Pr6a	Demonstrate mastery of the technical demands and an understanding of expressive qualities of the music in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire representing diverse cultures, styles, genres, and historical periods.
1.3C.12acc.Pr6b	Demonstrate an understanding of intent as a means for connecting with an audience through prepared and improvised performances.

1.3C.12acc.Re7	Perceiving and analyzing products.
1.3C.12acc.Re7a	Apply criteria to select music for a variety of purposes, justifying choices citing knowledge of the music and the specified purpose and context.
1.3C.12acc.Re7b	Explain how the analysis of structures and contexts inform the response to music.
1.3C.12acc.Re8	Interpreting intent and meaning.
1.3C.12acc.Re8a	Support interpretations of the expressive intent and meaning of musical works citing as evidence the treatment of the elements of music, contexts, the setting of the text (when appropriate), and varied researched sources.
1.3C.12acc.Re9	Applying criteria to evaluate products.
1.3C.12acc.Re9a	Evaluate works and performances based on research as well as personally and collaboratively developed criteria, including analysis and interpretation of the structure and context.
1.3B.12acc.Cn10	Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
1.3B.12acc.Cn10a	Demonstrate how interests, knowledge and skills relate to personal choices and intent when creating, performing and responding to music.

Students Will Know/Be Skilled At

- The major organs, muscles, and anatomical processes associated with breathing, breath support, and phonation for singing.
- How to properly align their bodies for singing.
- How to breathe for singing, the types of breathing, including clavicular, thoracic, abdominal, and appoggio,
- How to engage muscles of the torso in breath support while singing and alleviate tension in the neck and throat.
- How to create resonance and the function of the soft palate.
- How to sing with good, appropriate diction.
- The most common vowel sounds, their tongue positions, and how to maintain pure vowels.
- How to assign appropriate vowel sounds for singing to any given word or syllable.
- How to maintain and perform pure vowel sounds and how to modify vowels depending upon the range of a note.
- The difference between a healthy and a damaged voice and how to care for one’s voice.
- How to change and manipulate tone color and weight in the voice as appropriate for different repertoire.
- How to negotiate the passaggio (register break) appropriately.
- How to listen and balance with the voices around them.

- Proper body alignment and breathing affects the quality of the sound a singer produces.
- Singing requires awareness and development of the body in relation to the physical demands of performance.
- Each person has only one voice and it is essential to take good care of it.
- Clear and uniform diction is essential to the interpretation and communication of music to an audience.
- Vocal tone and color can be altered and manipulated to suit different musical styles and genres.
- Warming up the voice each day allows a singer to strengthen the muscles used for singing, and to practice important aspects of vocal technique.
- The vocal technique of each member of the ensemble affects the quality of the group.
- key terms and vocabulary including, resonance, passaggio, tone color, alignment, uniformity of vowel, vowel modification, breath support.