

# Unit 1: Pitch

Content Area: **Music**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **30/45 Days**  
Status: **Published**

## **Brief Summary of Unit- Revised June 2021**

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In this unit, intermediate musicians will continue to build upon the foundational musical knowledge and skills developed in their beginning band curriculum. Pitch is a fundamental element of music and a developing level of competency is necessary for students to succeed as independent instrumentalists. By providing instrumentalists with sequential, developmentally-appropriate pitch instruction, they will be able to create, perform, present, produce, respond, and connect with their ensemble members in a meaningful, musical way.

## **Standards**

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ELD standards: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdmsiGOdCHlrjU-WPvAtENnEgi0EStZXo0uiFYvINu4/edit>

MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cr1	Generating and conceptualizing ideas.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cr1a	Compose and improvise ideas and motives for melodies and rhythmic passages based on characteristic(s) of music or text(s) studied in rehearsal.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cr2	Organizing and developing ideas.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cr2a	Select and develop draft melodies and rhythmic passages that demonstrate understanding of characteristic(s) of music or text(s) studied in rehearsal.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cr3	Refining and completing products.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cr3a	Evaluate and refine draft compositions and improvisations based on knowledge, skill and collaboratively developed criteria.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cr3b	Share personally developed melodies and rhythmic passages (individually or as an ensemble) that demonstrate understanding of characteristics of music or texts studied in rehearsal.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr4	Selecting, analyzing and interpreting work.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr4a	Select varied repertoire to study based on music reading skills (where appropriate), an understanding of formal design in the music, context, and the technical skill of the individual and ensemble.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr4b	Demonstrate, using music reading skills (where appropriate), how the setting and formal characteristics of musical works contribute to understanding the context of the music in prepared or improvised performances.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr4c	Demonstrate understanding and application of expressive qualities in a varied repertoire

	of music through prepared and improvised performances.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr5	Developing and refining techniques and models or steps needed to create products.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr5a	Develop strategies to address technical challenges in a varied repertoire of music and evaluate their success using feedback from ensemble peers and other sources to refine performances.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr6	Conveying meaning through art.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr6a	Demonstrate attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music representing diverse cultures and styles.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Pr6b	Demonstrate an understanding of the context of the music through prepared and improvised performances.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Re7	Perceiving and analyzing products.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Re7a	Explain the reasons for selecting music citing characteristics found in the music and connections to interest, purpose and context.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL4	Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Re7b	Describe how understanding context and the way the elements of music are manipulated inform the response to music.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Re8	Interpreting intent and meaning.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Re8a	Identify and support interpretations of the expressive intent and meaning of musical works, citing as evidence the treatment of the elements of music, contexts and the setting of the text (when appropriate).
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Re9	Applying criteria to evaluate products.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Re9a	Explain the influence of experiences, analysis and context on interest in and evaluation of music.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.L3	Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cn10	Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cn10a	Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cn11	Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural, and historical contexts to deepen understanding.
MU.K-12.1.3C.12int.Cn11a	Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.
SJ.1	Students will develop positive social identities based on their membership in multiple groups in society.
SJ.6	Students will express comfort with people who are both similar to and different from them and engage respectfully with all people.
SJ.AC.3-5.20	I will work with my friends and family to make our school and community fair for everyone, and we will work hard and cooperate in order to achieve our goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP1	Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
CRP.K-12.CRP2	Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
CRP.K-12.CRP4	Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.
CRP.K-12.CRP5	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.

CRP.K-12.CRP6	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
CRP.K-12.CRP8	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
CRP.K-12.CRP9	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
SEL.PK-12.1	Self-Awareness
SEL.PK-12.2	Self-Management
SEL.PK-12.3	Social Awareness
SEL.PK-12.4	Responsible Decision-Making
SEL.PK-12.5	Relationship Skills
TECH.8.1.8	Educational Technology: All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaborate and to create and communicate knowledge.
TECH.8.1.8.B	Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and process using technology.
TECH.8.1.8.C	Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
TECH.8.1.8.D	Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
TECH.8.1.8.F	<p>Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.</p> <p>Individuals design and test solutions to identify problems taking into consideration the diverse needs of the users and the community.</p> <p>People use digital devices and tools to automate the collection, use, and transformation of data. The manner in which data is collected and transformed is influenced by the type of digital device(s) available and the intended use of the data.</p> <p>Troubleshooting a problem is more effective when knowledge of the specific device along with a systematic process is used to identify the source of a problem.</p> <p>Technology interacts with society, sometimes bringing about changes in a society's economy, politics, and culture, and often leading to the creation of new needs and wants. New needs and wants may create strains on local economies and workforces. Improvements in technology are intended to make the completion of tasks easier, safer, and/or more efficient.</p> <p>Resources need to be utilized wisely to have positive effects on the environment and society. Some technological decisions involve trade-offs between environmental and economic needs, while others have positive effects for both the economy and environment.</p> <p>Advancements in computing technology can change individuals' behaviors. Society is faced with trade-offs due to the increasing globalization and automation that computing brings.</p> <p>Economic, political, social and cultural aspects of society drive development of new technological products, processes, and systems.</p> <p>Data is represented in many formats. Software tools translate the low-level representation of bits into a form understandable by individuals. Data is organized and accessible based on the application used to store it.</p>

## **SEL Competency Connections for Intermediate Musicians**

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### SEL Competency Connections for Intermediate Instrumental Music

Intermediate instrumental music instruction inherently fosters the growth of the five social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making). Throughout the course of study, these SEL competencies are addressed in a tacit way; allowing for the organic development of individualized student growth. While the primary goal is to deliver beginning band instruction, clear connections to SEL enhance the overall outcomes of student learning.

Below, you will find a list of applicable competencies from the Arts Education and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Framework that complement the artistic processes found in the 2020 New Jersey Student Learning Standards for the Visual and Performing Arts.

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#### Self-Awareness

- 01: Recognize one's feelings and thoughts
- 02: Recognize the impact of one's feelings and thoughts on one's own behavior
- 03: Recognize one's personal traits, strengths and limitations
- 04: Recognize the importance of self-confidence in handling daily tasks and challenges

#### Self-Management

- 05: Understand and practice strategies for managing one's own emotions, thoughts and behaviors
- 06: Recognize the skills needed to establish and achieve personal and educational goals
- 07: Identify and apply ways to persevere or overcome barriers through alternative methods to achieve one's goals

#### Social Awareness

- 08: Recognize and identify the thoughts, feelings and perspectives of others
- 09: Demonstrate an awareness of the differences among individuals, groups and others' cultural backgrounds
- 10: Demonstrate an understanding of the need for mutual respect when viewpoints differ

11: Demonstrate an awareness of the expectations for social interactions in a variety of settings

### Relationship Skills

12: Establish and maintain healthy relationships

13: Utilize positive communication and social skills to interact effectively with others

14: Identify ways to resist inappropriate social pressure

15: Demonstrate the ability to prevent and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive way

16: Identify who, when, where, or how to seek help for oneself or others when needed

### Responsible Decision-Making

17: Develop, implement and model effective problem solving and critical thinking skills

18: Identify the consequences associated with one's actions in order to make constructive choices

19: Evaluate personal, ethical, safety and civic impact of decisions

## **Essential Questions**

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### **Essential Questions**

What is the relationship between melody and harmony in a piece of music?

What role does an instrumental part play in an ensemble setting?

What skills/techniques are needed to manipulate intonation on each instrument?

What role does intonation/sound production play in an ensemble sound?

What is the importance of key signature development in technical facility and music reading skills?

What effect can different modalities and tonalities have on the performance of different literature?

How does singing develop inner ear hearing to aid in musical performance?

## **Enduring Understandings**

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### **Enduring Understandings**

Pitch is a fundamental element of music.

Ensemble music consists of multiple voices.

Different factors can impact overall sound production and intonation.

No one instrument part is bigger than the overall ensemble sound.

Tonal centers vary in musical literature.

Different modalities impact the overall performance of a piece.

Different key signatures require the knowledge of new notes.

## **Objectives**

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### **Students will know that:**

Properly tuning their instrument contributes to the building of the “Band Pyramid” sound.

Band literature is written in different tonal centers.

Ensemble music consists of different instrumental roles.

Instrument lends itself to a characteristic role in ensemble music.

Different key signatures demand different technical facilities.

## **Objectives**

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### **Students will be skilled at:**

Tuning their instrument appropriately with proper embouchure, good posture and breath support

Identifying sharp v. flat pitches aurally and visually.

Identifying the difference between melody and harmony and other supporting musical voices.

Identifying the difference in tonality between a major and minor key signature.

Performing and identifying music literature in the following key signatures: Concert Bb, Eb, F, Ab, Db Major; Concert G, D, C, F, Bb Minor (natural, harmonic, and melodic), Chromatic Scale.

Understanding how their specific sound lends itself to create the “Pyramid of Sound”

Recognizing the function of key signatures, accidentals, and enharmonics and how they affect pitch.

Understanding melodic contour in regards to a musical phrase.

Performing on their instrument with proper breath technique, body postures, and embouchure position.

Visually identifying the staff pitch names for their instrument as their range evolves.

## **Learning Plan**

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**The teacher will develop strategies in daily learning plans to promote student independence and understanding through the following activities/concepts:**

Scale study exercises and routines

Identification of key signatures, accidentals, enharmonic tones, order of sharps and flats

Circle of Fifths study and reference

Aural identification and performance of major and minor modalities

Development of note reading and identification through the use of a fingering chart

Scale pattern drills to build fine motor skills and dexterity

Chorales, etudes, and chamber music

Full ensemble repertoire (concert music)

Sight reading

Part awareness in ensemble music

Tuning exercises

Use of tuner/tuning by ear "Passing the tonic"

Playing scales in rounds/chord progressions

Critical listening/Ensemble critique and assessment

Using solo and group performances to assess progress and growth

## **Evidence/ Performance Tasks**

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**Fine and Performing Arts students demonstrate differentiated proficiency according to their ability to**

**answer the essential questions through formative and summative assessments. Evidence of progression may be demonstrated in divergent ways through the artistic processes of creating, performing, presenting, producing, connecting, and responding. The assessment list below can be used as a starting point and is intended to be customized by each teacher.**

## **Formative**

### Student response

Ongoing discussion of essential questions and enduring understandings

### **Student discussion, aural/visual identification and performance of:**

New and previously learned pitches

Key Signatures

Accidentals and enharmonic tones

Major and minor modalities

### **Teacher visual observation of student performance:**

Hand/finger/mallet position (ready position, fingering positions)

Embouchure position

Instrumental posture

Breath technique/phrasing

### **Teacher aural observation of student performance:**

Pitch production

Breath technique/phrasing

Developing intonation skills

Embouchure

Articulation

Various exit tasks

Music theory apps/games



Turn and talk (partner and small group).

Student self-assessment (self/group correction)

Peer teaching

Listening examples with reflection

### **Summative**

Various exit tasks

### **Differentiated/individualized performance assessments:**

Song “tests”

Video/Audio performance submissions

### **Full ensemble performance assessments:**

Winter Concert

Spring Concert

Miscellaneous performances throughout the year

### **Benchmark**

Group recording analysis/critique of comparable student performance

### **Alternative**

Self analysis of personal “best” performance

All of the above assessments will have the following grade-level competency expectations:

6th Grade - with assistance

7th Grade - with limited assistance

8th Grade - independently

## **Materials**

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**The materials used in this course allow for integration of a variety of instructional, supplemental, and intervention materials that support student learners at all levels in the school and home environments. Associated web content and media sources are infused into the unit as applicable and available.**

### **Intermediate Band Instruments**

Flute

Oboe

Bassoon

Bb Clarinet

Bass Clarinet

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Bari Saxophone

Trumpet

Trombone

Baritone Horn

Tuba

### **Percussion**

Snare Drum w/ stand

Bass Drum w/ Stand

Suspended Cymbal w/ Stand

School owned Marimba, Xylophones, Glockenspiel, Vibraphone, Orchestral Chimes

Timpani

Traps/Auxiliary

### **Cleaning/Maintenance Supplies:**

Valve Oil

Slide Oil

Cork Grease

Reeds

Cleaning Swabs

Cleaning Rods

Bell Covers

Mouthpiece Cleaner

Mouthpiece Brush

### **Electronic/Technology Materials**

Piano

Tuner/Metronome

Computer w /speakers

Smartboard

Tuner/Metronome

Tonal Energy/Staff Wars App

### **Instructional Supplies**

Method Books

Various Sheet Music

Other instructional texts/books

### **Classroom Supplies**

Music Stands

Chairs

White board

Dry Erase Markers/Erasers

Pencils

Folders

### **Suggested Strategies for Modification**

This link includes content specific accommodations and modifications for all populations:

[Performing Arts Accommodations & Modifications](#)