

# Grade 6-7 Sound Design, Unit 1: Music Technology

Content Area: **Music**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**  
Length: **Ongoing, throughout the school year 30/45 Day Cycle**  
Status: **Published**

## Brief Summary of Unit

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In this unit, students will learn about the music equipment needed to compose and create audio productions. They will learn about GarageBand and other similar apps that will give them the basic understanding of working with any DAW (digital audio workstation). Students will learn to set their DAW up for recording. This will require students to maintain their equipment: charging their Ipad or computer, setting up microphones, using a computer dock, playing back through headphones/earbuds, becoming familiar with an audio interface and learning to edit, automate and mix their creations. Students will meet curriculum objectives by the end of eighth grade.

## Essential Questions

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- What equipment do I need for Digital Audio production?
- What are some DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) examples?
- How do I set up a microphone to use for recording?
- What is an audio interface?
- How can I use the equipment I have to make the best production?

## Essential Understandings

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- DAW, which stands for a digital audio workstation, is software that allows us to compose, record, and produce audio projects.
- Garage Band, Reaper, Cakewalk, and Band Lab are Digital Audio Workstations.
- If you need to record an audio source you will need a microphone, unless it is built into your Digital Audio Workstation.
- An audio interface will convert microphone and instrument signals into a format the computer software can recognize.
- Making a quality recording depends on various factors, which include: an appropriate recording space, equipment that is fully charged, clear microphone signals, volume settings. Additionally, prepared notes and clear vocal diction contribute to the success of a project.

## **Students Will Know**

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Students will know that a Digital Audio Workstation is required to create and edit audio productions such as recordings for a song, podcast, or audiobook.

Students will know that Garage Band is a Digital Audio Workstation.

Students will know that Garage Band and other DAW can be used to create, sample and record pre-set or original content

Students will know that microphone can be used to record a vocal or instrumental component for an audio project.

Students will know that an audio interface will facilitate a clear signal for recording, and that a faulty microphone setup will result in feedback or other signal distortion.

## **Students Will Be Skilled At**

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Students will be skilled at preparing their Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) by making sure all necessary materials and programs are in working order.

Students will be skilled at setting up and using microphones with a DAW.

Students will be skilled at recording editing and organizing multiple tracks.

Students will be skilled at automating volume and sound effects on instrumental and vocal tracks within a DAW.

Students will be skilled at setting up parameters on a track page, including but not limited to volume, meter, tempo, zoom, mute track, solo track, and metronome.

Students will be skilled at accessing and using software instruments, their variations, and sound effects.  
Students will be skilled at accessing and using pre-set loops within an audio project.

Students will be skilled at using the software editing tools in a DAW for project completion.

Students will be skilled at using DAW as a tool for composition.

## **Learning Plan**

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Present and discuss the essential questions, making connections to these questions throughout the unit.

The teacher will develop strategies in daily learning plans to promote student independence and understanding in software/hardware setup and use, as well as navigating and using a DAW for composition and sound design

Explore software and how it interacts with hardware such as an Ipad, computer, microphone, audio interface.

Explore GarageBand or another DAW to set up projects with multiple tracks.

Experience adding and organizing tracks to facilitate editing during audio production.

Explore multiple digital instruments, their presets, and how to use them in creating their own melodies, harmonies, and rhythms.

Utilize microphones to create digital vocal or instrumental tracks.

Create projects that combine DAW presets, loops, personal and group vocals, and live and recorded instruments to produce an audio project such as a song, podcast, composition, audio book, documentary, or soundscape.

Plan a sound design using a DAW which is best suited for the project being prepared.

Review and edit in order to advance a production to the completed stage.

## **Evidence/Performance Tasks**

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Student response: ongoing discussion of essential questions and curriculum objectives.

Teacher observation of student performance pertaining to proper management of equipment: storing and charging ipads, microphones, docs, cables after every use.

Student demonstration of competent and appropriate use of all software and hardware when creating an audio production.

Teacher observation of student ability to troubleshoot issues between the DAW and microphones and or audio interface

Teacher observation of students' proficiency with editing tools.

Summative:

Completed Projects presented throughout the cycle or marking period based on rubric

Individual and group critique of production based on rubric

Benchmark

Project Drafts: Students will have multiple stages of progress for each production

Self and group critique of production based on rubric throughout the editing process

Assessment will have the following grade-level competency expectations:

6th Grade-with assistance

7th Grade- with limited assistance

## **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.

\* To reach curriculum goals, students will use classroom instruments given their availability and at the discretion of the music teacher.

## Standards

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

The identified standards reflect a developmental progression across grades/ levels and make interdisciplinary connections across content areas including social sciences, technology, career readiness, cultural awareness and global citizenship. The standards that follow are relevant to this course in addition to the associated content-based standards listed below.

LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R2	Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R3	Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R4	Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R6	Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.R7	Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.W5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL1	Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL2	Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL3	Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Cn10	Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Cn11	Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural and historical contexts to deepen understanding.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Cr2a	Select, organize and document personal musical ideas for arrangements, songs and compositions within expanded forms that demonstrate concepts such as tension and release, unity and variety, balance, and convey expressive intent.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Cr2b	Use standard and/or iconic notation and/or recording technology to document personal rhythmic phrases, melodic phrases and harmonic sequences.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Cr3a	Evaluate, refine and explain their own work by selecting and applying criteria including appropriate application of elements of music, compositional techniques, style and form, and use of sound sources.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Pr5a	Identify and apply personally developed criteria (e.g., demonstrating correct interpretation of notation, technical skill of performer, originality, emotional impact, variety, interest) to rehearse, refine and determine when the music is ready to perform.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Re7a	Select programs of music (e.g., a playlist, live performance) and demonstrate the connections to an interest or experience for a specific purpose.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Cn10a	Demonstrate how interests, knowledge and skills related to personal choices and intent

	when creating, performing, and responding to music.
MU.6-8.1.3A.8.Cn11a	Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.
SEL.PK-12.1.1	Recognize one's feelings and thoughts
SEL.PK-12.1.2	Recognize the impact of one's feelings and thoughts on one's own behavior
SEL.PK-12.1.3	Recognize one's personal traits, strengths, and limitations
SEL.PK-12.1.4	Recognize the importance of self-confidence in handling daily tasks and challenges
SEL.PK-12.2.1	Understand and practice strategies for managing one's own emotions, thoughts, and behaviors
SEL.PK-12.2.2	Recognize the skills needed to establish and achieve personal and educational goals
SEL.PK-12.3.2	Demonstrate and awareness of the differences among individuals, groups, and others' cultural backgrounds
SEL.PK-12.3.3	Demonstrate an understanding of the need for mutual respect when viewpoints differ
SEL.PK-12.3.4	Demonstrate an awareness of the expectations for social interactions in a variety of settings
SEL.PK-12.4.1	Develop, implement and model effective problem-solving, and critical thinking skills
SEL.PK-12.4.2	Identify the consequences associated with one's actions in order to make constructive choices
SEL.PK-12.4.3	Evaluate personal, ethical, safety, and civic impact of decisions
SEL.PK-12.5.1	Establish and maintain healthy relationships
SEL.PK-12.5.2	Utilize positive communication and social skills to interact effectively with others
SEL.PK-12.5.3	Identify ways to resist inappropriate social pressure
SEL.PK-12.5.4	Demonstrate the ability to prevent and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways
SEL.PK-12.5.5	Identify who, when, where, or how to seek help for oneself or others when needed
WRK.K-12.P.1	Act as a responsible and contributing community members and employee.
WRK.K-12.P.3	Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.
WRK.K-12.P.4	Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
WRK.K-12.P.5	Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
WRK.K-12.P.6	Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management.
WRK.K-12.P.7	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
WRK.K-12.P.8	Use technology to enhance productivity increase collaboration and communicate effectively.
WRK.K-12.P.9	Work productively in teams while using cultural/global competence.
TECH.K-12.1.1.a	articulate and set personal learning goals, develop strategies leveraging technology to achieve them and reflect on the learning process itself to improve learning outcomes.
TECH.K-12.1.1.c	use technology to seek feedback that informs and improves their practice and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.
TECH.K-12.1.1.d	understand the fundamental concepts of technology operations, demonstrate the ability to choose, use and troubleshoot current technologies and are able to transfer their knowledge to explore emerging technologies.
TECH.K-12.1.2.a	cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world.
TECH.K-12.1.2.b	engage in positive, safe, legal and ethical behavior when using technology, including social

	interactions online or when using networked devices.
TECH.K-12.1.2.c	demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the rights and obligations of using and sharing intellectual property.
TECH.K-12.1.3.a	plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.
TECH.K-12.1.3.b	evaluate the accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance of information, media, data or other resources.
TECH.K-12.1.4.a	know and use a deliberate design process for generating ideas, testing theories, creating innovative artifacts or solving authentic problems.
TECH.K-12.1.6.a	choose the appropriate platforms and tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication.
TECH.K-12.1.6.b	create original works or responsibly repurpose or remix digital resources into new creations.
TECH.K-12.1.7.a	use digital tools to connect with learners from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, engaging with them in ways that broaden mutual understanding and learning.
TECH.K-12.1.7.c	contribute constructively to project teams, assuming various roles and responsibilities to work effectively toward a common goal.
	How do musicians generate creative ideas?
	Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.

## **Suggested Strategies for Modifications**

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

[Performing Arts Accommodations & Modifications](#)