

# Unit 01: Development of Proper Singing Technique

Content Area: **Template**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **FY**  
Status: **Published**

## Standards Alignment

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### New Jersey Student Learning Standards

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VPA.1.1.8	All students will demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles that govern the creation of works of art in dance, music, theatre, and visual art.
VPA.1.1.8.A	Dance
VPA.1.1.8.A.4	Integrate a variety of isolated and coordinated movements in dance compositions and performances, making use of all major muscle groups, proper body mechanics, body patterning, balance, and range of motion.
VPA.1.1.8.C	Theatre
VPA.1.1.8.C.3	Differentiate among vocal rate, pitch, and volume, and explain how they affect articulation, meaning, and character.
VPA.1.3.8.B	Music
VPA.1.3.8.B.2	Perform independently and in groups with expressive qualities appropriately aligned with the stylistic characteristics of the genre.

### Integration of Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

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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.CRP3	Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
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.CRP7	Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
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.CRP10	Plan education and career paths aligned to personal goals.
CRP.K-12.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.
CRP.K-12.CRP12	Work productively in teams while using cultural global competence.

### Technology / Integration of Computer Science and Design Thinking

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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.F	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.
TECH.8.1.8.F.1	Explore a local issue, by using digital tools to collect and analyze data to identify a solution and make an informed decision.

## **Interdisciplinary Connections: NJSLs for ELA, Social Studies, Science and/or Math Section**

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LA.K-12.NJSLSA.SL	Speaking and Listening
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.SL6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
LA.SL.6.1.D	Review the key ideas expressed and demonstrate understanding of multiple perspectives through reflection and paraphrasing.
LA.SL.6.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

## **Integration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Climate Change; Informational and Media Literacy New Section**

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see Crosswalks

## **21st Century Life and Careers**

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### **Stage I: Desired Results**

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### **Transfer/Overview/Rationale**

#### **Transfer / Overview / Rationale**

Unit Rationale  
The purpose of this unit...

Proper singing technique is necessary in order to produce a resonant and relaxed sound from the vocal mechanism. This unit lasts throughout the year, and is reinforced through sight-singing and musical literacy exercises as well as learning the concert repertoire. While this unit is mostly focused on the singing voice, the everyday speaking voice will also improve as the student gains understanding on how the vocal mechanism operates.

## **Meaning**

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### **Essential Questions**

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#### Essential Questions

- How can singers perform independently and with others using correct vocal technique?
- In what ways can I treat my voice correctly/mistreat my voice?
- How can proper posture and breath support help my singing voice?
- How can proper embouchure and vowel shapes help create a blended choral sound?

### **Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding**

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#### Enduring Understanding/Indicators of Understanding

- Singing is a fundamental and universal form of communication that requires correct vocal technique and active listening skills.
- The vocal mechanism is an instrument, and requires specific technique similar to any other instrument.
- Body alignment (posture) and breath support are necessary to create a good vocal sound.
- Proper embouchure and vowel shapes helps create a blended choral sound.

### **Acquisition (Student Learning Objectives)**

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## **Knowledge**

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### Knowledge

Students will know...

- How the vocal mechanism works
- Correct singing posture
- Singing with breath support
- Various vowel shapes
- How to create a blended choral sound with individual voices

## **Skills**

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### Skills

Student will be skilled at ...

- Demonstrate correct vocal technique as a whole during rehearsal
- Finding good singing posture and demonstrating breath support
- Maneuvering the mouth to find correct vowel shapes

## **Stage 3: Learning Plan**

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## **Resource and Mentor Texts**

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### Resources and Mentor Texts

- Various texts by James Jordan
- The Structure of Singing by Richard Miller
- Prescriptions for Choral Excellence by Shirlee Emmons
- YouTube for performance examples and vocal demonstrations

## **Formative Assessment Strategies**

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### Formative Assessment Strategies

Immediate aural feedback - while students participate in warm-ups, rounds, and repertoire rehearsal. Since students come into the classroom with various levels of understanding, the assessments are based on personal growth.

## **Learning Activities/Unit of Study**

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### Learning Activities/Unit of Study

These skills will be applied to all in-class singing activities throughout the year as well as any other singing activities (musical theater, voice lessons, honors choirs, etc.).

## **Modifications and/or Accommodations**

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### **Suggested Modifications (ELL, Sp. Ed, Gifted, At-risk of Failure)**

#### **English Language Learners**

Native language support: The teacher provides auditory or written content to students in their native language.

Adjusted Speech: The teacher changes speech patterns to increase student comprehension. This could include facing the students, paraphrasing, clearly indicating the most important ideas, and speaking more slowly.

Visuals: The teacher uses graphics, pictures, visuals, and manipulatives. This helps ELL students better understand and comprehend the subjects at hand.

Front-Loading Vocabulary: The teacher front loads vocabulary. This means providing students with a list of important vocabulary words they will need to know for a book, lesson, etc. prior to the lesson being taught. Including pictures to go with the vocabulary words is also very beneficial for the students.

#### **Special Education Students**

**Chunking:** The teacher presents information in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and remember. Chunking is based on the presumption that our working memory is easily overloaded by excessive detail. The best way to deliver information is to organize it into meaningful units. Because students with special needs get overloaded easily, chunking is an effective strategy to use with them.

**Checking for Understanding:** It is important to constantly check for understanding, especially for students who have accommodations. Teachers want to make sure students understand the concepts being covered in a way that makes sense to them.

**Extra time:** The teacher provides students with special needs extra time to complete work or answer questions. It is important to give students enough time to process their thoughts.

**Oral Reading:** The teacher will read work orally to students. Class work such as tests and literature circles may need to be read aloud to the student.

**Timers:** The teacher will use timers as an instructional tool. The use of timers is beneficial for students who have trouble completing tasks. Timers can be helpful so the student is aware of how much time they have to complete an assignment.

## **Students with 504 Plans**

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## **Gifted & Talented Strategies**

**Extensions/Enrichments:** Teachers will provide gifted and talented students with extension/enrichment projects. Students will be challenged to further their understanding, to apply acquired knowledge, and/or to produce something in reference to acquired knowledge.

**Modify/Change Activities:** Teachers will monitor and modify activities to accommodate those students who need to be challenged further. Additional reading, problem-solving, writing, or project work is necessary for those students who are ready to move on at a rate more accelerated than their peers. In this way, G & T students are provided the same opportunity for support as special needs

students.

## Students at Risk of School Failure

**Directions or Instructions:** Make sure directions and/or instructions are given in limited numbers. Give directions/instructions verbally and in simple written format. Ask students to repeat the instructions or directions to ensure understanding occurs. Check back with the student to ensure he/she hasn't forgotten.

**Peer Support:** Peers can help build confidence in other students by assisting in peer learning. Many teachers use the 'ask 3 before me' approach. This is fine, however, a student at risk may have to have a specific student or two to ask. Set this up for the student so he/she knows who to ask for clarification before going to you.

**Alternate or Modified Assignments:** Always ask yourself, "How can I modify this assignment to ensure the students at risk are able to complete it?" Sometimes you'll simplify the task, reduce the length of the assignment or allow for a different mode of delivery. For instance, many students may hand something in, the at-risk student may jot notes and give you the information verbally. Or, it just may be that you will need to assign an alternate assignment.

**Increase One to One Time:** When other students are working, always touch base with your students at risk and find out if they're on track or needing some additional support. A few minutes here and there will go a long way to intervene as the need presents itself.

**Contracts:** It helps to have a working contract between you and your students at risk. This helps prioritize the tasks that need to be done and ensure completion happens. Each day write down what needs to be completed, as the tasks are done, provide a checkmark or happy face. The goal of using contracts is to eventually have the student come to you for completion sign-offs.

**Hands On:** As much as possible, think in concrete terms and provide hands-on tasks. This means a child doing math may require a calculator or counters. The child may need to tape record comprehension activities instead of writing them. A child may have to listen to a story being read instead of reading it him/herself.

**Tests/Assessments:** Tests can be done orally if need be. Break tests down in smaller increments by having a portion of the test in the morning, another portion after lunch and the final part the next day.

**Seating:** Seat students near a helping peer or with quick access to the teacher. Those with hearing or sight issues need to be close to the instruction which often means near the front.