

Unit 1: Keyboard Basics

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s): **Piano Lab I**
Time Period: **1 marking period**
Length: **5-6 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

In this unit, the students will acquire the basic knowledge and skills in order to begin playing piano. These keyboard basics will include an introduction to the keyboard layout, use and care of the instrument, how to sit at the keyboard, hand position, and developing good habits for practice and performance. Students will be able to identify and interpret basic musical nomenclature and theory essential for music reading.

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...

- Develop basic piano technique.
- Develop good practice habits.
- Identify the notes and organization of black and white notes on the keyboard.
- Identify elements of music theory essential for music reading.

For more information, read the following article by Grant Wiggins.

http://www.authenticeducation.org/ae_bigideas/article.lasso?artid=60

Meaning

Understandings

Students will understand that...

- Piano technique and posture will affect piano performance.
- Good practice habits will enhance piano skills and performance abilities.
- The keyboard is organized in a specific pattern of whole steps and half steps.
- Pitches are assigned to lines and spaces on the Grand Staff that correspond to notes on the piano keyboard.
- Notes are assigned a duration of time or note value.

Essential Questions

Students will keep considering...

- How will posture and hand position affect piano performance?
- What are the elements of good practice habits?
- How will effective practice enhance performance abilities?
- How are the notes of a piano keyboard organized?
- How does the Grand Staff and pitch notation correlate to the layout of the piano keyboard?

Application of Knowledge and Skill

Students will know...

Students will know...

- The physical layout of the piano keyboard.
- The elements of good practice.
- Use and care of the instrument.
- The importance of good posture and hand position.
- The notated Grand Staff, including the Staff, Treble Clef, Bass Clef, Middle C, and their corresponding location on the keyboard.
- How to read and interpret basic note values.

Students will be skilled at...

Students will be skilled at...

- Demonstrating good posture at the keyboard.
- Demonstrating correct hand position.
- Demonstrating proper use and care of the instrument.
- Demonstrating the pattern and organization of notes on the piano keyboard.
- Identifying and being able to write the symbols for indication of sharp, flat, and natural pitches.
- Identifying and being able to write both Treble and Bass Clefs, and the pitches notated on them.
- Locating and playing the pitches notated on the Grand Staff.
- Identifying and writing basic note values, including quarter notes, half notes, dotted half notes, and whole notes.

Academic Vocabulary

Whole step
Half step
Octave
Staff
Bass Clef
Treble Clef
Grand Staff
Middle C
Note
Pitch
Rhythm
Quarter note
Half note
Dotted half note
Whole note

Target 2

Students will be able to identify the series of half-steps and the pattern in which they are organized on the piano keyboard.

VPA.9-12.1.3.12.2

The ability to read and interpret music impacts musical fluency.

VPA.9-12.1.3.12.3

Understanding of how to manipulate the elements of music is a contributing factor to musical artistry.

VPA.9-12.1.3.12.B.2

Analyze how the elements of music are manipulated in original or prepared musical

scores.

Summative Assessment

- Critiques
- Performance Assessment
- Written Test

21st Century Life and Careers

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.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.CRP11	Use technology to enhance productivity.

Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities

Student demonstration at the keyboard.

Peer critiques of other students.

Self-critique.

Written assessments.

Study and analysis of classic piano performances through audio/video examples.

Music theory tests/quizzes.

Performance assessments of chosen repertoire.

Differentiation/Enrichment

Students are provided opportunities to be successful through the use of piano keyboards, teacher monitoring/assessing, and peer critique.

Unit Resources

Digital Piano keyboards and benches

Teacher modeling

Blank staff paper

Piano sheet music

Music theory worksheets

Recorded musical examples

Video examples

Written Tests

Textbook

- Audio/Visual Examples
- Digital Piano Keyboards and Benches
- Internet Resources
- Music Theory Worksheets
- Sheet Music