

Course Overview

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

Course Overview

Aligned to Standards: NJSLs 2020

Revision Date: 2021, 2026

In compliance with the NJ Student Learning Standards, climate change, career readiness, DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusivity), as well as other standards have been integrated within the NBCRSD curricula (NJ Administrative Code Title 6A: chapter 8; Title 18A: chapter 35).

Course Overview

Sequence- Unit Titles, Summaries, and Number of weeks per unit (total = 18 semester/36 year)

Unit 1: Introduction and Personal Connection to Music (4 class periods)

Unit 1 introduces students to the course expectations and concepts while easing them into music appreciation through personal reflection. In the "Soundtrack of My Life" project, students select songs that represent key aspects of their identity and present their choices to the class. This unit builds classroom community and establishes music as a personal, meaningful form of expression.

Unit 2: Elements of Music (7 class periods)

Unit 2 introduces students to the foundational elements of music. Students begin with beat, rhythm, and notation and time signatures, then progress to the staff, clef, and pitch recognition, before covering melody, harmony, tempo, and dynamics. Understanding is assessed through concept quizzes throughout the unit and a culminating final composition project.

Unit 3: Instrument Families (10 class periods)

Unit 3 explores the instrument families of the orchestra and beyond, including brass, woodwinds, strings, keyboard instruments, percussion, and voice. Students learn to identify each family's distinct characteristics, playing techniques, and role within an ensemble, while developing the ability to recognize instruments by sight and sound. The unit concludes with an "Unknown Instruments Project," in which students research and present on lesser-known instruments from around the world.

Unit 4: Genres of Music (8 class periods)

Unit 4 examines the historical, social, and musical characteristics of influential American music genres, including the blues, jazz, country, and rock, along with the artists who shaped them. The unit concludes with students researching and creating an informative presentation on a genre of their own choosing.

Unit 5: Music History (13 class periods)

Unit 5 traces the evolution of Western music through the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic eras. Students examine the historical and social context of each period, along with its musical characteristics, the evolution of musical instruments, and the contributions of influential composers who shaped musical development over time.

Unit 6: Final Project (3 class periods)

Unit 6 is a culminating final project in which students choose from four options based on their interests: composing a six-track concept EP using a DAW, researching and recording a 10-minute

podcast episode on a music-related topic, writing and scoring a "mini-movie" with 3-5 scenes using a DAW, or completing a deep dive into a Broadway musical presented as a detailed slideshow. All project options will include a reflective essay in which students examine their creative process.

[Reporting Student Progress](#) (link to NB's Assessment System)

All courses follow a balanced assessment system with Practice and Assessments. Each category includes formative, summative and alternative assessments.

[Accommodations and Modifications](#) (link to menu)

Integrated accommodations and modifications for special education students, English language learners, students at risk of school failure, gifted and talented students, and students with 504 plans.