



Middle School Music Instruction in the West Shore School District

Middle school general music classes continue to develop music skills and concepts introduced in elementary general music classes. By incorporating national and state core arts standards of (1) Creating, (2) Performing, and (3) Responding to music, our goal of connecting their knowledge and personal experiences to music, will deepen their ken, appreciation, and understanding.

Best Practices in Middle School Music Instruction:

6th Grade:

- Create, perform, and respond to rhythm.
- Create, perform, and respond to music notation.
- Create, perform, and respond to music history.
- Create, perform and respond to harmony on the keyboard.

7th Grade:

- Identify changing voices.
- Create, perform, and respond to rhythm.
- Create, perform, and respond to music notation.
- Create, perform, and respond to composition.
- Create, perform, and respond to music history.
- Create, perform, and respond on keyboards or guitars.

8th Grade:

- Identify music careers and avocations for the future.
- Create, perform, and respond to music history.
- Create, perform, and respond to musical research.
- Create, perform, and respond on keyboards or guitars.

Skills and Concepts:

- Rhythm
- Melody
- Harmony
- Tonality
- Texture
- Tempo
- Expression
- Timbre
- Ensembles
- Form
- Genre
- Listening Skills
- Aesthetic Response
- Cooperative Learning

Assessments:

WSSD utilizes a variety of assessments to monitor student growth and achievement. Our teachers engage in daily informal formative assessments to make timely decision about whether a student understands the material and concepts being presented. We also utilize several summative assessments to determine if a student has mastered grade level skills and standards.

Some of the assessments utilized are:

Written Assessment

Formative/summative Assessment

Oral Assessment

Choral Response

Performance Evaluation

Materials and Resources:

WSSD utilizes a variety of resources to meet all learners' needs.

- Music Texts
- Instruments
- Internet Resources
- Keyboard Lab
- Guitar Lab
- School Library