

# Grade 8 Music at City Honors School

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## Standards

Grade 8 Music at City Honors School is aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards with guidance from the IB Middle Years Program, National Association for Music Education (NafME) New York State Education Department, the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA), and the Buffalo Public Schools Music Supervisor.

The National Standards for Music Education are especially applicable to Grade 8 Music curriculum.

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

## Rationale

The fields of musical artistry, craft, and scholarship have developed continuously throughout human history. Music has essential roles in most aspects of all cultures. Music exists as an evolving social construct between groups of people. But music is also a highly personal and individual experience. For these reasons, each year the Grade 8 Music instructor modifies the course content to best fit the strengths, interests and cultural background of individual students and the class as a social learning group.

Students will be actively engaged in challenges of increasing complexity that:

- are relevant to the real world
- prepare them for college and careers
- will help them successfully relate to cultures other than their own
- require them to manage and assess their own skill building and scaffolding
- emphasize the acquisition of deep expertise in several specific, yet diverse, modes of musical knowledge; rather than a broad survey of knowledge.

## Community Participation

8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will have the opportunity to participate with the City Honors Community Chorus for events such as Musical Scenes/Rock the Hilltop, the Annual Winter Concert, Keeping the Dream Alive Assembly, Talent Show, Annual Spring Concert and other school, community and municipal events.

# Syllabus

## 1.) Social Instrument Skills

Students will become proficient in solo and ensemble ukulele performance: first position playing in basic classical and folk techniques, transposable open position chords, and scales.

Students are assessed on their full active participation, physical preparedness, mental focus, and artistic intention as observed and mentored by the instructor.

## 2.) Social Vocal Arts and Ensemble Skills

Students will sing a varied repertoire of music that supports the healthy development of their voices and is culturally significant to the school community.

Students are assessed on their full active participation, physical preparedness, mental focus, and artistic intention as observed and mentored by the instructor.

## 3.) Music and Movement

Students will develop expressive musicality, kinesthetic awareness, and self-confidence through “Movement and Music” Dalcroze Eurhythmics training with instrumental art music by major composers.

Students are assessed on their full active participation, physical preparedness, mental focus, and artistic intention as observed and mentored by the instructor.

# Grading

An “A” level numeric scale grade will be assigned quarterly for students who demonstrate the following characteristics in their work:

- Always prepared for class at the start of class.
- Always maintains awareness in the classroom and uses deliberate, intentional, precise, and meaningful movements for all organizational tasks and routines.
- Frequently offers effective assistance to classmates in need.
- Typically applies mental focus, artistic intent and a helpful attitude toward collaboration with peers in all music making activities.

A “B” level numeric scale grade will be assigned quarterly for students who demonstrate the following characteristics in their work:

- Sometimes prepared for class at the start of class.
- Sometimes maintains awareness in the classroom and uses deliberate, intentional, precise, and meaningful movements for organizational tasks and routines.
- Sometimes offers effective assistance to classmates in need.
- Sometimes applies mental focus, artistic intent and a helpful attitude toward collaboration with peers in music making activities.

A “C” level numeric scale grade will be assigned quarterly for students who demonstrate the following characteristics in their work:

- Usually not prepared for class at the start of class.
- Typically does not maintain awareness in the classroom and does not use deliberate, intentional, precise, and meaningful movements for organizational tasks and routines.
- Rarely offers effective assistance to classmates in need.
- Often does not apply mental focus, artistic intent or a helpful attitude toward collaboration with peers in all music making activities.