



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Percussion Ensemble

Course Description:

This course is designed to meet the unique needs of the first-year percussion student at the high school level. Students master the techniques required for playing the full spectrum of percussion equipment including drums, mallet instruments, timpani and the various handheld "trap" instruments. Special emphasis is placed on the Percussive Arts Society list of 40 rudiments, keyboard proficiency, note and rhythm reading skills and ear training. In addition, students participate in Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) sponsored events such as All-District Band auditions and Solo & Ensemble Festival. Concerts of traditional and contemporary percussion ensemble works will be prepared and performed. Small ensemble and solo work as well as music theory and history will be components of this course.

Essential Skills/Processes: Students will--

Technique

- Demonstrate proper posture and playing position
- Demonstrate proper technique appropriate for the given percussion instrument; alternate playing techniques
- Demonstrate musicianship and interpretation of band literature through performance of grade appropriate literature
- Demonstrate advanced technical proficiency on basic percussion instruments (snare drum, timpani, keyboard)
- Demonstrate expanded technical proficiency with special attention to techniques idiomatic to each instrument
- Perform all 40 rudiments from Percussive Arts Society list
- Demonstrate competence in all accessory percussion instruments: cymbals, suspended cymbals, triangle, tambourine, claves, timbales, bongos, congas, castanets, maracas, güiro, cabasa, tamtam, wind chimes and various world instruments

Music Theory

- Perform music involving meter and tempo changes
- Recognize advanced rhythmic patterns through 32nd note values, asymmetrical patterns, nontraditional notation
- Recognize Time Signatures simple and complex/compound meters, changing meters, free rhythm
- Play 12 major scales in a variety of tempos and rhythmic patterns through complete range of the keyboard instrument
- Play chromatic scale through complete range of the keyboard instrument
- Recognize major key signatures and perform music with numerous key changes
- Sightread at a grade III level
- Develop aural and sight-singing skills to recognize Major, Minor and Perfect intervals
- Match pitch on timpani with accurate intonation; tune timpani from one given pitch

Ensemble Skills

- Recognize and respond to basic conducting patterns of simple and changing meters
- Recognize and respond to expressive elements written in the music and given by the conductor
- Demonstrate an awareness of ensemble timbre, contrast, balance and blend
- Demonstrate an awareness of musical terminology necessary for performance of dynamics, tempo, style and phrasing
- Demonstrate an understanding of proper rehearsal technique and etiquette
- Demonstrate an understanding of stage presence and decorum
- Demonstrate advanced performance techniques in large and small ensembles

Music Literature

- Perform music of grade appropriate literature
- Perform a wide variety of styles from musical historical periods
- Perform a wide variety of styles from various world cultures
- Demonstrate an awareness of timbre, contrast, blend, balance, phrasing, etc. in performance of varied musical styles

Listening/Musical Analysis

- Listen to a wide variety of styles from musical historical periods
- Analyze musical forms such as March, Sonata, Rondo, Theme and Variations, Fugue
- Recognize musical styles relative to historic periods of baroque, classical, romantic, and contemporary
- Demonstrate critical musical judgment in evaluating the performance of self and others.

Technology

- Exploration of available music technology through the use of varied media
- Explore and observe available computer technology in the field of music
- Analysis of performance through the use of recording and listening to performances

Essential Knowledge: Students will—

- Understand the role of music in our society
- Appreciate different cultures and customs
- Encourage creative experimentation
- Foster a spirit of cooperation
- Appreciate the work/study ethic
- Acquire stage presence and decorum
- Share the talents of others
- Expand career awareness

Resources:

Curriculum Connections:

Career Preparations: Professional musician, performer, teacher, composer, arranger, musicologist, music industry, instrument repair, production engineering, music technology

Language Arts: Reinforcement of vocabulary, grammar and verbal communications skills.

Fine Arts: Coordinate music, drama, dance and visual art; correlation of music and art.

World Language: Musical terminology in Italian, German, French, Spanish and Latin.

Health and Physical Education: Instrumental music requires conditioning and coordination.

Mathematics: Analyzing rhythmic values requires working with numbers and fractions. Intervals and musical forms require use of formulas.

Science: Physics of acoustics, properties of sound and sound dispersion.

Social Studies: Music history as it relates to general historical events. History and culture of music literature being performed.

Stafford County Public Schools:

<https://www.staffordschools.net/>

VA Standards of Learning:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml

School Report Card (VA Department of Education):

<http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/>