

Judson S. Armstrong, General and Instrumental Music, Salt Lake Arts Academy

### Goals of General and Instrumental Music Classes

Encourage and nurture creativity and appreciation in all areas of musicianship.  
New found enjoyment for musical expression.  
More developed listening skills that make complex music more accessible.  
Participation in individual and ensemble performance.  
Strong comprehension of musical fundamentals.  
Considering major historical landmarks and cultural influences in musical development.  
Enhance lives through quality musical experience and performance.

### Principles and Fundamentals of Musical Study at the Arts Academy

Developing better listening skills, pitch, rhythm and texture, the “musicians” ear.”  
Reading musical notation of pitch and rhythm.  
Expressing or performing music with confidence.  
Increased understanding of musical history and theory.  
Sophisticated performance of vocal and instrumental ensemble music.

### Student Assessment Standards

#### Mastery of Fundamentals 40% of student grade

- \*Vocabulary of the musical arts - alphabet, dynamics, notation, rhythm, etc.
- \*Listening skills - hearing, describing intervals, melody, harmony and texture.
- \*Performance of musical elements - fundamental rhythms, notes and scales

#### Participation/Effort/Preparation/Risk PEPR 30% of student grade

- \*Completion of tasks - in class theory work, listening labs, instrument practice.
- \*Willingness to try new ideas - hearing playing new sounds
- \*Involvement - working with different ensembles and instruments
- \*Generating Ideas and expression - working on interpretive skills, dynamics.

#### Cooperation/Attitude/Behavior CAB 30% of student grade

- \*Listens to, and follows, instructions
- \*Sensitive to others understanding and knowledge
- \*Respect of classroom rules

#### Preparedness

- \*Binder, notes, instruments and music to class
- \*In class assignments
- \*Homework, cleanup, respectful use of space.

#### Skill Progression

- \*Building on previous knowledge - greater understanding of theory and harmony.
- \*Composition, Arrangement of music.
- \*Utilizing technology in music, notation, recording software
- \*Sophisticated interpretation or performance

### 5th and 6th Grade Music Class

During younger students years at the Arts Academy a daily Arts period is incorporated into the schedule which includes quarter long (9 weeks) classes in visual art, drama, dance and music. This class is designed to engage young people in the process of discovering the joy of musical experience, creation and expression. The class is centered around using the required elements of music including active listening and reading both rhythm and pitch notation. Musical examples are not just listened to, but learned to be played as well, with practice time built into the weekly schedule. The use of the major scale is required to be sung and played on an instrument. Historical connections are included to experience some concepts of the Humanities curriculum .

- Listening with intent and understanding.
- Historical progression of melody and harmony.
- Required music theory worksheet packet.
- Rhythm as math, Rhythm and culture.
- In class practice time for learning required pieces of music and rhythm.
- Instrumental and vocal performance in an ensemble setting.
- Connections to Humanities Historical/Social Studies curriculum.

### 7th and 8th Grade Music Class

The “Advanced Music” classes are designed with a semester long curriculum in place and require a higher level of study and commitment from the students. Routine instrumental practice and ensemble performance are a required part of this class, as is a more in-depth study of music theory and history. Genre and style study is building block for the class musical repertoire, all students will engage in the study and practice of classical, jazz and folk/pop pieces. Encouragement of a greater participation of arrangement or composition of music for solo and ensemble pieces, as well as musical works to be used in all school performances.

- Ear training for melodic intervals and harmonic progressions.
- Scale construction, spelling and playing, utilizing flat and sharp keys.
- Required performance of historical piece.
- Ensemble performance of tunes from a variety of eras and genres.
- Research of specific times or eras related to timeline study in humanities classes.
- Engaging technology in musical study, recording, notation, and musical creation!

### Instrumental Electives

Rotating schedules allow for a variety of electives offered for students with specific or developing interests. Beginning Band and Orchestra are important jump off points for musical discovery and ensemble interaction, and Guitar classes of different levels are always filled with enthusiastic students. These classes are a semester long and rotate to different times over a two year cycle for student access. These are performance based classes designed to improve instrumental technique and understanding in an ensemble setting for social musical interaction. Students are required to have their own instrument and bring/store it at school daily. Electric guitar and bass students must provide own amplifier.