

Grade 8 Music Standards and Benchmarks

Standard 1: Sings, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

Benchmarks:

- 1.1 Sings with good breath control, expression, and technical accuracy (e.g. appropriate timbre, intonation, and diction; correct pitches and rhythms) at a level that includes modest ranges and changes of tempo, key, and meter
- 1.2 Sings music written in two and three parts
- 1.3 Knows music that represents diverse genres (e.g. sonata, madrigal, jazz) and cultures

Standard 2: Performs on instruments, alone and/or with others, a varied repertoire of music

Benchmarks:

- 2.1 Performs on an instrument (e.g. band or orchestra instrument, keyboard instrument, fretted instrument such as guitar, electronic instrument) accurately and independently, alone and in small and large ensembles, with good posture, good playing position, and good breath, bow or stick control
- 2.2 Performs with expression and technical accuracy on string, wind, percussion, a repertoire of instrumental literature that may include modest ranges and changes of tempo, key and meter
- 2.3 Performs music representing diverse genres and cultures with expression appropriate for the work being performed

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Standard 3: Improvises melodies, variations, and accompaniments

Benchmarks:

- 3.1 Improvises melodic embellishments and simple rhythmic and melodic variations on given pentatonic melodies and melodies in major keys
- 3.2 Improvises short melodies unaccompanied and over a given rhythmic accompaniment in a consistent style, meter and tonality

Standard 5: Reads and notates music

Benchmarks:

- 5.1 Reads 16th (semiquavers) and dotted notes and rests in 6/8, 3/8, alla breve (2/2) meter signatures
- 5.2 Reads at sight simple melodies in treble and/or bass clefs
- 5.3 Knows standard notation symbols for pitch rhythm dynamics, tempo, articulation and expression

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Standard 6: Knows and applies appropriate criteria to music and music performances

Benchmarks:

- 6.1 Identifies specific music events when listening to music
- 6.2 Understands how the elements of music are used in various genres and cultures
- 6.3 Understands the basic principles of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords and harmonic progressions
- 6.4 Knows the criteria that affect the quality and effectiveness of music performances and compositions

Standard 7: Understands the relationship between music and history and culture

Benchmarks:

- 7.1 Understands distinguishing characteristics of representative music genres and styles from a variety of cultures
- 7.2 Understands characteristics that cause various musical works to be considered exemplary