Music at Alto - Middle Years Program

Introduction

The music curriculum at Alto bases itself on the reinforcement of fundamental musical concepts in an engaging way through the application and transfer of music-based skills. The purpose of the program is to create diverse, proficient, and knowledgeable musicians who will be able to perform and create music with others in a variety of contexts. In addition to music classes in middle school, Alto offers all students in grades 4 to 12 to participate in the band program.

Middle Years Program (Grade 6 - 8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Unit</th>
<th>Statement of Inquiry</th>
<th>Topics / Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Music notation and application | Notation allows for the consistent communication of music. | • Review and expand upon students’ knowledge of Western music notation  
• Application of traditional notation reading abilities to performing music  
• Learning the fundamentals of performing a wind instrument  
• Understanding how to produce the desired sound effect as notated in a piece of music  
• Be able to hear and identify accuracies and inaccuracies in a performance based on the notated music  
• Explore other ways wind instrument music can be notated. How is music shared and performed together in different parts of the world? |
| Wind instruments | | |
| Composition | Through common practices, methods and structure, musicians develop the skills needed for successful performances. | • Understand the purpose of playing warm-ups in the process of developing a skill  
• Apply knowledge of instrument fundamentals to creating a personal warm-up  
• Transfer knowledge of music notation rules to composition  
• Reflect on the process, product, and performer’s response. |
| Composing for your instrument | | |
| Music notation and application | Notation allows for the consistent communication of music. | • Review and expand upon students’ knowledge of Western music notation  
• Application of traditional notation reading abilities to performing music  
• Learning the fundamentals of performing a chordal instrument  
• Understanding chord charts and strumming notation while applying new knowledge to a piece of music  
• Be able to hear and identify accuracies and inaccuracies in a performance based on the notated music  
• Explore other ways chordal instrument music can be notated. How is music shared and performed together in different parts of the world? |
| Chordal instruments (Ukulele) | | |
| Composition | Composers communicate ideas and emotions through their music. | • Explore ways that composers and popular artists convey emotion or ideas through music  
• Understand the role of each part in a piece of music  
• Learn commonly used chord progressions in classical and popular music  
• Identify specific elements of form, dynamics, and style while listening to music  
• Apply their understanding of form, dynamics, chord progressions, and style to their group composition  
• Reflect on the process, product, and audience response |
| Ensemble writing | | |

Detailed scope and sequences for each grade might vary. Alto teachers are encouraged to incorporate current events into the curriculum and adapt their statement of inquiry based on classroom discussions.