

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)

Major Unit	Statement of Inquiry	Topics / Content
Music notation and application Wind instruments	Notation allows for the consistent communication of music.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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?
Composition Composing for your instrument	Through common practices, methods and structure, musicians develop the skills needed for successful performances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Music notation and application Chordal instruments (Ukulele)	Notation allows for the consistent communication of music.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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?
Composition Ensemble writing	Composers communicate ideas and emotions through their music.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

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.