

**Plymouth Public Schools  
Middle Schools  
Course Syllabus**

**Course Name**            General Music

**Grade**                    Grade 6

**Course Description**

This 22 lesson course lasts for one quarter and is designed for sixth grade students. Music will be presented within its cultural and historical contexts. Emphases will be placed upon basic music fundamentals, form and analysis, improvisation and beginning composition, healthy vocal production, techniques of classroom instruments, and use of music technology. Students will be expected to participate in all performances or demonstrations during school hours and possibly at an evening performance. Band or Chorus may be taken concurrently with General Music.

**Instructional Objectives**

*Students will:*

1. Use correct vocal techniques and posture;
2. Demonstrate correct usage of classroom instruments;
3. Demonstrate understanding of music within its cultural and historical contexts;
4. Use appropriate terminology in describing music, music notation, and music performances;
5. Identify and correctly utilize basic elements of music: beat, tempo, rhythm, meter, pitch, melody, harmony, texture, dynamics, and form;
6. Improvise and compose simple melodic, rhythmic, and accompaniment patterns; and
7. Correctly utilize music applications on a MIDI station.

**Grading Policy**

Student grades are determined by their performance through the following multiple tasks and assignments:

Class participation	40%
Performance/Demonstration/Assessments	30%
Homework	15%
Cooperation	15%

**Text and Instructional Materials**

Notion  
Audacity  
Super Duper Music Luper  
Finale Notepad  
Classroom instruments  
Classroom materials

**Learning Sequence**

- Week 1:            Review of note values, rhythms, meter, drumming and improvisation.  
                         Introduction to music of other countries.
- Week 2:            Continue rhythms and note values, meter, drumming, improvisation, and music  
                         of other countries. Introduction to elements of musical structure: measure, phrase, form  
                         in music. Introduction to MIDI and computer application: Finale Notepad. Homework:  
                         begin 16 measure composition (hand- written)
- Week 3:            Continue 16 measure composition. Continue introduction to MIDI and Finale Notepad.  
                         Copy composition into Finale Notepad. Classroom demonstrations of compositions.  
                         Music of other countries.
- Week 4:            Introduction of ABA, binary, ternary, rondo forms. Improvisation of composition utilizing a  
                         form. Continue MIDI and music applications. Music of other countries.

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- Week 5: Introduce “introduction,” coda, 12-bar blues. Piano or guitar accompaniment. Improvisation of a 12-bar blues form. Continue MIDI and music applications. Music of other countries.
- Week 6: Introduction to repeat signs, dal segno (ds), dal segno al coda, time signature, Composition with an introduction and coda utilizing a form. Continue MIDI and music applications. Music of other countries.
- Week 7: Introduce pitches on grand staff, clefs, sight-reading from musical notation. Continue composition with an introduction and coda utilizing a form. Introduction to formal analysis. Continue MIDI and music applications. Music of other countries.
- Week 8: Continue compositions, improvisations, classroom performances, and MIDI and music applications. Music of other countries.
- Week 9: Continue compositions, improvisations, classroom performances, and MIDI and music applications. Final project or music test.