
Music Standards of Learning

**for
Virginia
Public Schools**



**Board of Education
Commonwealth of Virginia**

June 2013

Grade Six General Music

The standards for Grade Six General Music enable students to continue acquiring musical knowledge and skills by singing, playing instruments, performing rhythms, moving to music, composing, and improvising. Students explore music theory by reading and writing music notation, and they become familiar with a variety of musical styles and musical works from different periods of music history. Students demonstrate an understanding of music and its relationship to history, culture, and other fields of knowledge, and they become aware of the contributions of music to the quality of the human experience.

Music Theory/Literacy

- 6.1 The student will read and notate music, including
 - 1. identifying melodic patterns;
 - 2. recognizing diatonic intervals;
 - 3. identifying notes written on the bass staff;
 - 4. notating melodies on the treble staff, with emphasis on steps and skips;
 - 5. reading and notating rhythmic patterns that include whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, and corresponding rests; and
 - 6. identifying the meaning of the upper and lower numbers of time signatures.

Performance

- 6.2 The student will perform a varied repertoire of music, including
 - 1. demonstrating acceptable performance behaviors;
 - 2. following dynamic and tempo markings; and
 - 3. singing or playing music in unison and simple harmony.
- 6.3 The student will play a variety of pitched and nonpitched instruments, including
 - 1. singing or playing melodies and accompaniments written on the treble staff; and
 - 2. playing music in a variety of ensembles.
- 6.4 The student will perform rhythmic patterns that include whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, and corresponding rests.
- 6.5 The student will respond to music with movement by performing nonchoreographed and choreographed movements.
- 6.6 The student will create music through a variety of sound and notational sources by
 - 1. improvising four-measure melodic and rhythmic phrases; and
 - 2. composing four-measure melodies and rhythms.

Music History and Cultural Context

- 6.7 The student will explore historical and cultural aspects of music by
 - 1. identifying and describing the cultures, musical styles, composers, and historical periods associated with the music literature being studied;
 - 2. identifying ways in which culture and technology influence the development of music and musical styles, including the ways sound is manipulated;
 - 3. examining career options in music;
 - 4. identifying the relationship of music to the other fine arts and other fields of knowledge;
 - 5. identifying ethical standards as applied to the use of social media and copyrighted materials; and
 - 6. demonstrating concert etiquette as an active listener or participant.

Analysis, Evaluation, and Critique

- 6.8 The student will analyze and interpret music by
1. examining the importance of cultural influences and historical context for the interpretation of works of music; and
 2. describing works of music, using inquiry skills and music terminology.
- 6.9 The student will evaluate and critique music by
1. examining and applying accepted criteria for evaluating works of music;
 2. describing performances of music, using music terminology; and
 3. applying accepted criteria for critiquing musical performances of self and others.

Aesthetics

- 6.10 The student will investigate aesthetic concepts related to music by
1. identifying reasons for preferences among works of music;
 2. identifying ways in which music evokes sensory, emotional, and intellectual responses, including ways in which music can be persuasive; and
 3. explaining the value of musical performance to the school community.