

# NORTH BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Essential Curriculum

### Music

#### *Grades 5-8*

#### **General Music**

Upon completion of Grades 5-8, students will be able to:

#### **Rhythm**

- The relationship of beat, note, rest values, and meter
- Read, play or sing rhythmic patterns
- Rhythmic dictation

#### **Melody**

- Aural and visual melodic contour, contrast, and repetition
- Read, play and sing melodies
- Melodic

#### **Harmony**

- Perform basic harmonies
- Read, play or sing chords and triads
- Harmonization of melodies using chord symbols
- Read, play, and sing duets and trios
- Recognition of various harmonies through listening

#### **Tone Color**

- Students will be able to differentiate between various instruments by sight and sound
- Students will have the ability to create desired moods by selecting specific instruments and modes

#### **Form**

- Ability to use and recognize basic musical forms (i.e.: binary, ternary) through written or listening activities

#### **Listening**

- Activities in listening will be used to enhance ALL areas of the curriculum
- Develop listening skills

#### **Style and History:**

- Aural recognition of various musical styles and world cultures
- Awareness if historical and cultural backgrounds

#### **Career/Consumer Education**

- Exposure to various musical careers
- Prepare students to be knowledgeable consumers of music

## **Vocal Music**

*All students are given the opportunity to participate in the vocal music program.*

Upon completion of Grades 5-8, students will be able to:

### **Proper Care of Voice**

- Students in the vocal music program will be instructed in the proper care of the voice as a performing instrument

### **Tone Reproduction**

- Students will receive proper instruction in good tone production through breathing, dictation, intonation, and support

### **Rhythm**

- Students will sing using fundamental musical notation
- Students will read and sing music in standard meters
- Students will understand and sing various rhythms using solfege syllables

### **Melodies/Harmony**

- Students will develop the ability to accurately sing a melodic line in tune
- Students will sight sing simple melodic lines
- Students will be introduced to 3 and 4 part harmony

### **Ensemble Singing**

- Students will develop a feeling and understanding of melody, harmony, form, lyric content and tone color as they relate to both individual and groups of voices

### **Styles**

- Students will be exposed to various stylistic and harmonic differences in vocal music

### **Performance**

- Students will develop an understanding of proper stage presence, deportment, and appropriate behavior

## **Instrumental Music**

All students are given the opportunity to elect the study of a traditional band instrument at any grade level, though they are encouraged to begin in Grade Five. Students will continue to develop their understanding of musical concepts.

Upon completion of Grades 5-8, students will be able to:

### **Grade 5 (First year)**

1. Assemble their instruments.
2. Utilize correct posture and breath control.
3. Perform with the embouchure and hand position appropriate for their instrument.
4. Perform traditional notation relating to time values (i.e.: whole, half, quarter notes and rest, ties and slurs).
5. Perform notation relating to tempi, styles, and dynamics.
6. Perform with a tone quality characteristic of their instrument and with an awareness of proper intonation.
7. Perform phrases and songs with an awareness of musical sentence structures;
8. Improvise simple exercises designed for self-help in overcoming difficulties with the instrument.
9. Improvise simple melodies using rhythms and pitches.
10. Perform music in ensembles

- Performance of music with different textures (i.e.: polyphonic or imitative and homophonic or melody with harmonic accompaniment).
  - Recognize and respond to conducting patterns for meter, phrasing, dynamics, and entrances.
11. Compose and notate simple songs.

### **Grade 6 (Second year)**

1. Perform with a more mature tone and intonation through further study of breath control and embouchure.
2. Perform notation in rhythmic subdivisions division of the pulse (i.e.: eighth and sixteenth notes and rests, compound meters)
3. Perform all notes on their instruments (chromatically) with the exception of the extreme ranges through experiences with solo and ensemble materials.
4. Perform music of contrasting styles through solo and ensemble experiences, and solo opportunities.
5. Perform in a larger ensemble (i.e.: concert band, jazz band)
6. Perform basic marching techniques.

### **Grade 7 and Grade 8**

The major part of the work done in grades 7 and 8 involves the ongoing reinforcement and development of the materials and concepts previously studied. The physical maturity gained by the student allows for more coordination of the physical, mental, and musical skills gained in the first two years. The student will be able to perform some solo parts and ensemble parts with more clarity and ease.

Upon completion of Grades 5-8, students will be able to:

1. Perform accurately in given key signatures.
2. Recognize compositional devices such as motifs, sequences, modulations.
3. Recognize more aesthetic, social, and historical styles of music.
4. Perform a greater variety of rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic combinations in solo and ensemble situations.
5. Control a wider range of notes on their instrument.
6. Use more aural awareness of controlling his or her performance with the instrument and in listening to music generally.
7. Memorize at least 2 major scales (Bb, Eb)
8. Learn to perform simple repairs on the instrument.