VDOE-Virginia Department of Education
Music-Standards of Learning Strands

Music Theory/Literacy

Students will study and practice music theory through reading and writing music notation. They will use critical-thinking skills to analyze the manner in which music is organized.

Performance

Students will demonstrate mastery of musical skills and concepts at levels of increasing difficulty. They will learn to participate in music as a musician through singing, playing instruments, improvising, composing, and moving to music. Students will participate in all aspects of music performance, demonstrating appropriate use of related materials, equipment, methods, and technologies.

Music History and Cultural Context

Students will understand aspects of music history and ways in which music fits into culture. They will become familiar with the distinctive musical characteristics of music that delineate major historical periods of music and will identify the compositional techniques employed in many styles of music. Students will examine the interrelationships among current events, developing technologies, and music in society.

Analysis, Evaluation, and Critique

Students will listen to, respond to, reflect on, analyze, interpret, evaluate, and critique music. They will articulate objective evaluations of musical works by analyzing creative musical elements and production as a whole. Students will be guided in the development of criteria to be used for making informed artistic judgments about music as well as the other arts and for evaluating the roles of music in society. They will apply these processes when creating and evaluating their own musical works.

Aesthetics

Students will reflect on the sensory, emotional, and intellectual qualities of music. They will examine various cultural perspectives and factors that shape aesthetic responses to music. By experiencing and evaluating musical compositions and performances, students will have the opportunity to understand meaning in music and recognize the contribution music makes to the enrichment of the human experience.