

# FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT: MUSIC LEARNING ESSENTIALS

The Music Standards of Learning identify the essential content and skills required in the music curriculum for each grade level or course in Virginia's public schools. Standards are identified by each grade level for kindergarten through grade five and by grade clusters (6–8 and 9–12) at the middle and high school levels.

Within each level or area, the standards are organized into four related strands. Although the strands are presented separately for organizational purposes, in practice they are integrated throughout all music instruction, regardless of the particular classroom or ensemble experience. They shape the music experience and guide the instructional process

## The content of the Music Standards of Learning is intended to support the following goals for students in all music classrooms:

- Develop understanding of music through experiences in singing, moving, listening, and playing instruments.
- Develop the ability to read and notate music.
- Create compositions that transcribe their thoughts and emotions into concrete musical forms of human expression.
- Exercise critical thinking skills by investigating and analyzing all facets of the music discipline.
- Demonstrate awareness of and responsibility for the safe and ethical use of materials, equipment, methods, and technologies.
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship of music to history and culture.
- Make connections between music and other fields of knowledge.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply aesthetic criteria for making artistic choices.
- Develop awareness of copyright and royalty requirements when rehearsing, performing, or otherwise using works of others.

### Web Link:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/fine\\_arts/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml)

## Strand 1: Performance and Production

- \* Demonstrate mastery of musical skills and concepts at levels of increasing difficulty
- \* Learn to participate in music as a musician through singing, playing instruments, improvising, composing, and moving to music
- \* Participate in all aspects of music production demonstrate appropriate use of related materials, methods, and technologies

## Strand 2: Cultural Context and Music Theory

- \* Understand music within the contexts of culture, music history, and music theory
- \* Study and practice music theory through music reading, notation, and sight reading
- \* Use critical thinking skills to analyze the manner in which music is organized
- \* Identify the style and characteristics of music that delineate each of the basic music historical periods as well as the influence of technology and compositional techniques employed in all genres of music

## Strand 3: Judgment and Criticism

- \* Observe, listen, respond, reflect, analyze, interpret, and evaluate music
- \* Articulate an objective evaluation of music works by analyzing creative musical elements and production
- \* Make informed judgments about music
- \* Create and evaluate musical works

## Strand 4: Aesthetics

- \* Reflect and respond to sensory, emotional, and intellectual qualities of music
- \* Examine various cultural perspectives and the factors that shape aesthetic responses
- \* Become aware of the contributions of music to the quality of the human experience.