

Music Appreciation

Student skills developed in elementary school will continue throughout their music education at WMS. Assessment is through class participation, class work, and quizzes. Each grade will build upon knowledge and skills attained in previous classes.

6th Grade

- Basic music theory and terminology with review and refinement of music notation.
- Performance in small ensembles while exploring basic attributes of music.
- Study of the history of music in the movies. Activities include the creation of an autobiographical PowerPoint presentation.

7th Grade

- Continuation of music theory and terminology with an emphasis on major scales and key signatures.
- Exploration of genres and styles of music.
- Use of music software for music notation.
- Study of careers in music focusing on concert planning and advertising.

8th Grade

Emphasis is placed on application of knowledge learned in previous grades. Students will compose simple melodies using rules of music theory, play basic drum rhythms based on rhythm and musicianship, and learn to conduct music using their knowledge of musical style, composition and interpretation. Along with these hands on activities, students will debate the importance of music in the schools using recent studies and current school initiatives as a source for argument.

Skills for Success

Skills for Success is a course for sixth grade students. It is taught once a week over the course of the school year. The goal of the program is to help students develop skills to be successful in school and life. Students take an online information literacy assessment at the beginning and end of the course. Other skills that are explored include but are not limited to: learning skills inventory, introduction to online resources, effective Internet searching strategies, evaluation of online resources, test-taking skills, mnemonic devices, listening skills, organizational skills, reading informational text, annotating, memorization skills, creating effective presentations, and public speaking.

All Unified Arts classes are graded on the same scale as the academic areas. The grades contribute to a student's earning a place on the honor roll or high honor roll.

Physical Education meets daily for two quarters per year. Band and Chorus meet two or three times a week for the entire school year. Music Appreciation, Art, and Health meet daily for one quarter per year.

Superintendent of Schools

Henry E. LaBranche, Ph.D - Interim

Superintendent

Amanda Lecaroz, CAGS, - Assistant

Superintendent

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Windham School District

Windham Middle School

Unified Arts Curriculum



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Unified Arts

It has been shown that physical activity and the arts enhance the learning environment and a student's overall school experience. Research shows that these endeavors improve academic performance. It is the goal of these programs to enrich and deepen the educational experience and social development of the middle school years.

Physical Education

Students are exposed to new skills and concepts as well as building upon that which they learned in previous years.

Individual sports: Badminton, Wrestling, Ping Pong.

Team Sports: Flag Football, Soccer, Field Hockey, Floor Hockey, Volleyball, Non-contact Lacrosse, Team Handball, Softball.

Lifetime Fitness: Weight Training, Aerobic Conditioning, Orienteering.

Recreational Activities: Square Dance, Waltz, Swing, Bocce, Frisbee, Juggling, Hand-eye Coordination skills.

Misc. Games: Nerfball Games, Capture the Flag

NASPE (National Association of Sport and Physical Education) offers us six standards on which we base our program. A physically

educated person: 1. Demonstrates competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.

2. Applies movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.

3. Participates regularly in physical activity.

4. Achieves and maintains a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.

5. Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings.

6. Values physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Health Education

The goals of the Health Education Program are:
To acquire an understanding and appreciation of how the students' personal choices and behaviors will affect their overall health for a lifetime.

To develop skills for healthful living.

Each grade level will cover the following Health related topics:

6th Grade

Nutrition, Tobacco Use, Mental Health, Injury Prevention, and Physical Activity

7th Grade

Alcohol and Other Drugs, Mental Health, Injury Prevention, and Physical Activity

8th Grade

Alcohol and Other Drugs, Tobacco Use, Mental Health, Family Life and Sexuality, Nutrition, Injury Prevention, and Physical Activity

Art Education

This program follows a sequential body of content knowledge and skills that broadens learners' understanding of visual expression. Adolescents explore, organize, understand, and evaluate their abilities in art. The WMS art course lays the foundation for work at the high school level by providing opportunities to:

- Express ideas, thoughts and feelings
- Explore a wide variety of media
- Collaborate on group projects
- Work with the elements and principles of design.

All students taking Band, Chorus, or a World Language will have one full quarter of Art. Students who are taking Music Appreciation will have Art twice a week for the entire year.

6th grade: emphasizes the introduction of new techniques and new tools through multi-cultural projects. Independent work in the process of art and mastering tools through a variety of media are stressed.

Art Continued

7th grade: students refresh their association with tools and techniques with an emphasis on art history both ancient and modern.

8th grade: personifies individuality. There is a push toward high school art programs and what choices they have to offer. Advanced concepts are learned and practiced.

Chorus

Students in chorus should have a high interest in singing and performing. Skills and knowledge attained in their elementary music classes will be used as a source in learning new music. Students will be taught to read and understand music notation in standard choral repertoire. Assessment is through class participation, quarterly worksheets, and quizzes.

Band

The mission of the Windham Middle School's Band Program is to give exposure and opportunities for its students to grow in a musically enriched environment. Through this, they will be able to play music at its highest quality allowing each student self-discovery and confidence, expression of feelings and ideas, and the capabilities of practicing self-discipline and creative thinking skills. Students will be performing at various concerts and festivals throughout the school year. Emphasis will be placed on rhythmic reading abilities, sound quality, and ensemble rehearsal/performance techniques.

Jazz Band/Honors Band/Select Chorus:

All interested students may audition for any or all of these extra curricular ensembles. Members are exposed to more challenging techniques and music of different styles and cultures. Each ensemble rehearses before school.