

Council Rock Music Department

National Music Standards

2014 Music Standards
(PK-8 General Music)

2014 Music Standards
(Composition/Theory)

2014 Music Standards
(Music Technology)

2014 Music Standards
(Guitar/Keyboard/
Harmonizing
Instruments)

2014 Music Standards
(Ensemble)

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The primary purpose of the Council Rock music curriculum is to provide and maintain a program of music education that will benefit all students. Individual abilities, interests, and needs are met through the availability of classroom general music, instrumental instruction, vocal instruction, performing groups and through special course offerings.

Continuing efforts are made to discover aptitudes and encourage development of those abilities. Emphasis on the fundamentals of music is stressed through a conceptual approach which uses study, composition, analysis, listening and performance of a selected music literature.

Representative repertoire will include music of a wide range of periods, styles, cultures, forms, composers and technology.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

General Music

Each student meets weekly for a general music class. In a spiral, sequential approach, beginning in kindergarten, children strive toward the following objectives:

- Singing
- Directed listening
- Playing classroom instruments
- Learning musical notation
- Understanding musical form
- Relating music to cultural diversity and historical development
- Comparing music to other disciplines
- Developing aesthetic criteria Chorus

All students in fifth and sixth grade are given the opportunity to perform in a large choral group. Chorus extends, refines and enriches the basic skills that are taught in the curriculum. A concert is presented in Winter and Spring.

District Chorus

Through an audition process involving tests of pitch, rhythm and tonal memory, a District Chorus experience is offered to talented students already involved in their school chorus. Evening rehearsals culminate in participation in an all-district concert.

Instrumental

Instruction in string instruments begins in third grade. Band instrument instruction begins in fourth grade. Weekly group lessons are given to help each student learn the fundamentals of music and music performance on their instrument. Continuing instruction culminates in proficiency on an instrument. The following musical objectives are taught:

- Developing technical facility, breath control, tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, articulation and pitch awareness
- Identifying and interpreting expressive elements
- Developing effective rehearsal skills
- Developing aesthetic criteria
- Reinforcing the value of disciplined practice

Band & Orchestra

All instrumental students are given the opportunity to perform in a large group ensemble. This extends, refines and enriches the basic skills that are taught in small group instruction. A concert is presented in Winter and Spring.

District Band & Orchestra

Upon attaining an advanced level of proficiency, talented students are recommended for participation in District Band or Orchestra. Weekly rehearsals culminate in an all-district concert.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

General Music

Seventh and eighth graders receive classroom instruction in the following musical skills:

- Musical vocabulary
- Singing
- Playing classroom instruments
- Notation
- Directed listening activities
- Students experience a wide variety of cultures, historic styles, composers and compositions.

Chorus

Students are given an opportunity to perform in a large choral group. Students attaining a higher level proficiency can participate in select ensembles, adjudications, and county and district festivals.

Instrumental

The Middle Level instrumental program is dedicated, through weekly group lessons, to the following learning outcomes:

- Development of tone, breath control, pitch, rhythm, articulation and scales.
 - Development of practice skills.
 - Development of range and technique on instruments, and preparation for participation at the high school.
 - Development of knowledge of a wide variety of musical forms, styles, composers and literature
- Participation in a variety of performing groups, such as band and orchestra, reinforces the value of the individual's skills to the larger ensemble. Students attaining a higher level of proficiency participate in select ensembles, adjudications, and county and district festivals.

Summer Music Program

Council Rock offers elementary and middle level group rehearsals in July for band and orchestra. The groups meet one evening a week during July. All groups are taught by Council Rock music staff.

HIGH SCHOOL

Chorale/Symphonic Choir

Various skill and commitment levels develop vocal and choral skills: tone production, breathing, diction, musicality, and music reading. Students study a broad range of suitable literature.

Concert Band/ Symphonic Band/Marching Band

A variety of skill and commitment levels are offered. Standard literature will be presented to develop performing abilities and musical understanding.

String Orchestra/Symphony Orchestra

Orchestra is offered to students who have studied instruments for several years. A varied repertoire of music literature is performed in Winter and Spring.

Music Theory I is provided to students who wish to study the fundamentals of music structure. Music Theory I introduces and develops the musical elements of notation, keyboard awareness, circle of fifths, scales and basic chord progression in advancing levels of difficulty.

AP Music Theory is designed for students contemplating a music career and who have completed Theory I. AP Music Theory includes advanced harmony, analysis of musical forms and compositions. Emphasis is placed on preparation for the AP Theory exam.

Music Improvisation is designed for students who have a desire to develop their creative abilities. The process of improvising music is developed through ear-training, individual drills, and style awareness. Students taking this course need to demonstrate, through audition, their proficiency on a musical instrument.

Guitar courses allow students with no or limited experience to study guitar. Students may progress from Beginning to Intermediate levels of performance. Guitar technique, melody, chord recognition and rhythm are presented to students.

Honors Music Arranging is a course designed to acquaint students with the skills of orchestration. Students will be required to analyze musical compositions and arrange music for various media. Students will be instructed in the use of notation software.

Musical Theatre: From Vaudeville to Broadway, from George M. Cohan to Leonard Bernstein, from Strike Up the Band to Wicked, American musical theater is a unique performance art. This course engages students in a variety of performance oriented activities exploring all aspects of musical theater. Students will learn how to audition, use the stage-singing voice, participate in stage movement and songs, analyze and critique music theater performances, and perform in a series of musical theater scenes.

Music Technology: Writing and recording music in the 21st century is done with music software. Get started on producing and recording music with the Music Technology course. This hands-on course offers an overview of the acoustics of sound, recording, music software, MIDI, copyright laws, and legal/commercial issues while developing basic keyboard skills. Students will develop the ability to read and notate music using music software.

Small Ensembles: Vocal Ensembles, Jazz Bands, and Chamber Groups enrich established programs. These auditioned groups perform at special events.

Festivals: Opportunities exist for advanced students to audition for and participate in county, district, regional and state festivals. Large performing groups take a major trip once every 4 years.