

## My Grade 8 ArtsAround Short Range Plan for Cycle 'A' Music

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

~10+ weeks of Music followed by Dance with 10+ lessons and Drama with 10+ lessons. A Short-Range Plan for each subject area is provided prior to the starting time. This short-term plan is for Music. ~

### MUSIC

#### September

**Lesson # 1 & 2: The Shona People of Africa:** The students will learn about Marimba music, the Balafon instrument, the Shona people themselves who love drum circles and percussion. The following musical terms will be reviewed or introduced in this lesson: Marimba; Balafon; Shona People; Beat, Rhythm, Tempo; Dynamics; Ostinato: improvisation; hosho; djembe. Any teacher who has a thumb piano (mriba) or an African djembe get them out for this lesson. Improvisational drumming is very calming, and the *Pieces of Eight* percussion game will be played too. The *Beat & Rhythm* Rubric will be introduced.

**Music:** *Drumming Up Spirit*

#### September

**Lesson # 3: Musical Improvisation: Scat:** Bobby McFerrin –the King of Scat- will teach about scat. Even Sesame Street you tube shows the students how to scat. Getting senior students to loosen up and to try something new is difficult but through example, demonstration and celebrating cultures they tend to loosen up and participate. Emphasis is on pitch, volume and dynamics. Learning about jazz music and how scat was improvised by some of the best jazz musicians such as Mel Torme, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway and Ella herself.

**Music:** *Sambonani Jabolani*

#### September-October

**Lessons # 4 & 5: Playing Balafon: Reading Notes, Singing and Performing:** Using melody cards and treble and bass clefs the students will review note reading, solfege notations and ostinato, bordun, beat, tempo and rhythm. When playing Balafon, children are expected to layer the music. They will learn this first by jamming and then later by reading notes. The *Rubric for a Musical Performance* will guide them as they work within their bands to perform.

**Music:** *Balafon*

## October

**Lessons # 6 & 7: The Orff Schulwerk Approach: Fall Fun: Which Witch Is It?** The witch silhouette is a common image to see at Hallowe'en. The students will be introduced to Jan Michał Pieńkowski, a silhouette artist. The *Kingdom of Witches* animated home-made video and poem introduces the theme of witches. The students will compare animated musical media including *This Is Hallowe'en*, the Marilyn Manson version. Bizarre is the best word to describe the interesting concepts the students compare in this lesson. Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and even the witches of Salem, along with the witches in movies, (*Oz & Wicked*) provide many musical moments of fun. They all get their rightful places in witch's history, through songs, chants, poems, cartoons, mashups, sound effects and more.

**Music:** *This is Hallowe'en; Marilyn Manson's Dope Hat; Macbeth's Witches Chant; Defying Gravity; Witch Mash-Up.*

## November

**Lesson # 8 & 9: The Social, Political and Economic Factors of Music:** In this lesson the students will learn what it is like to be a good narrator using proper posture, projecting your voice, using various tones and dynamics. Media, social, economic, political, historical and musical literacies are imbedded in this lesson as the class watches you tube videos and sing songs from the 1960's right up to the early 2000's. There is lots of music in this lesson as the students appreciate how styles and genres change over time, often depending on what's going on in the world. From the Beatles to Motown to Dylan and the Stones, this music appreciation lesson has it all. Michael Jackson to Grunge, Hip hop, Rock and R & B. Too many songs to mention. Drop in on this lesson and see for yourself. Discover which eras you appreciated most.

## December

**Lesson # 10 & 11: *Imagine!* The Impact of Music:** This is where the children understand at a deeper level that music can change and does change the world. They will explore the history of the national anthems and patriotism. In this lesson they will get an up close and personal look at John Lennon and the work he was trying to accomplish during the 60's to 80's. The students will compare life then to life since 9-11 right up to the years after the pandemic. They will examine the real meaning of the song *Imagine* as told by John Lennon himself. They will learn the lyrics using a karaoke YouTube. They will learn to play and sing this song together-with feeling.

**Music:** *Imagine*

## December Dance

**Dance Lesson # 1 & 2: Christmas Hip-Hop Jingle Bells:** This 2-minute, fun dance requires focus, repetition, counting and thinking in segments to retain the choreography required to recall the sequence of patterns. The fact that it is hip-hop encourages participation from this "I'm too cool" age group. Most students cooperate. The class will collaboratively come up with their own unique class cheer to encourage Dance Teams as they present. Because this is Grade 8, the students will become involved in discussions and debates about media influence in dance and in the arts in general, about commercials and even TV shows or movies. They will look at the many potential careers there are for students interested in the arts. The students will be shocked at the breadth and depth of the type of opportunities in the arts. Finally, the class will be invited to create a special Christmas Family Variety Show (including family participation, activities, singing and dancing as well as some special fun YouTube links. What a wonderful gift of love to share during this hip-hop Christmas holiday!

