

## **Instrumental Music Benchmarks Grades 5-8**

**Standard 1 – Sings alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.**

**Standard 2 - Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.**

1. Students perform on at least one instrument accurately and independently, alone and in small and large ensembles, with good posture, good playing position, and good breath or stick control.
2. Students perform with expression and technical accuracy on their instrument a repertoire of instrumental literature appropriate to their level.
3. Students perform music representing diverse genres and cultures, with expression appropriate for the work being performed.

**Standard 3 – Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments.**

**Standard 4 – Composes and arranges music within specified guidelines.**

**Standard 5 – Reads and notates music**

1. Students read whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth, and dotted notes and rests in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, 3/8, and alla breve meter signatures as appropriate to their level and experience.
2. Students read at sight simple melodies in the clef appropriate to their instrument.
3. Students identify and define standard notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression as appropriate to their level and experience.
4. Students can sight-read, accurately and expressively, music appropriate to their level and experience.

**Standard 6 – Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.**

1. Students can describe specific music events (e.g., entry of oboe, change of meter, return of melody) in a given aural example, using appropriate terminology for their level and experience.
2. Students analyze the uses of elements of music in aural examples representing various genres and cultures.

3. Students demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords, and harmonic progressions in their analyses of music.

**Standard 7 – Evaluating music and music performances.**

1. Students understand criteria for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of a musical performance, and apply the criteria to their own listening and performances.
2. Students evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their own and others' performances by applying specific criteria appropriate for the style of the music, and offer constructive suggestions for improvement.

**Standard 8 – Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.**

1. Students compare how music and its processes and properties can be applied to other arts, other learning disciplines, and life experiences (e.g. problem solving strategies; sharing ideas, emotions, and storytelling; self-discipline; work ethic and results, etc.)
2. Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of music and learning an instrument are interrelated with other school subjects and disciplines. (e.g. similar terminology, learning strategies, logical progression of material/skills, practice effectiveness, etc.)

**Standard 9 – Understanding music in relation to history and culture.**

1. Students understand distinguishing characteristics of various music genres and styles.
2. Students experience a variety of styles and genres of music, from a variety of time periods, and, understand music has a role in reflecting historical events, lifestyle and beliefs of the time.
3. Students understand the functions of music in life situations and various cultures, roles of musicians, proper performance practices, and the like.