

Crawford Central School District

Modern Band

Grades 9-12

Course Description:

Modern Band is a newer school-based program that utilizes popular music as its central canon. Modern Band teach students to perform the music they know and love and to compose and improvise. Styles that are studied include rock, pop, reggae, hip-hop, rhythm & blues, electronic dance music, and other contemporary styles as they emerge. Modern Band also uses (but is not limited to) the musical instruments that are common to these genres: acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, voice, and technology.

Modern Band has allowed districts to not only increase and diversify their offerings but has also allowed them to increase participation in their music programs, especially where music serves as an elective at the middle and high school levels. Nearly 10 million students attend public school districts where Modern Band is offered.

Modern Band programming takes a student-centered approach. It leverages students' cultural capital. This can forge stronger bonds between traditionally marginalized students and the schools that serve them. Because the repertoire is drawn from popular culture, it can change with the times and is thus more responsive to student's preferences.

Modern Band can reach those students who decide as a freshman they would like to join a music ensemble. Most learning for the traditional ensembles begins in 4th grade in our district, therefore that student would not be able to make up lost time. In this course, the repertoire and instrumentation invite what is called "informal learning techniques". This brings an inherent flexibility that allows the teacher to create everything from a small rock band to a large ensemble and to do so for students at vastly different points in their own musical development. This adaptive approach is not solely dependent on one type of model. Therefore, Modern Band allows the teacher to craft ensembles that are well suited to the needs of the students who sign up for it.

Unit Title:	Basic Guitar Skills
Time:	4 Weeks
Essential Questions:	Conceptual learning questions (SAS)
Connections:	Connections to reading, math, and science
Resources:	Acoustic/Electric Guitars, Cords, Sound Board, Speaker, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must know: Parts of guitar, string names, fret purposes, how to read chord chart, basic rhythms, Tablature	Student must be able to: Play basic guitar chords using correct fingerings; Strum a basic rhythm pattern using a pick; Read Chord Charts; Read Tablature	Guitar, Chord, Fret, Rhythm, Strum, Pick, Tablature	Students will be able to play basic chords using a basic strum pattern individually and as a class. Students will be able to interpret a chord chart and tablature.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title:	Basic Keyboard Skills
Time:	3 Weeks
Essential Questions:	Conceptual learning questions (SAS)
Connections:	Connections to reading and math
Resources:	Roland Keyboards, Headphones, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must know: Layout of keyboard, names of keys, how to read chord charts, basic rhythms, understand Jam Cards, basic note/tablature reading.	Student must be able to: Play basic piano chords using correct fingerings; play a basic rhythm pattern; Read Jam Cards; Read Tablature	Keyboard, chord, individual keys, Jam Cards, Tablature	Students will be able to play basic chords using correct fingerings individually and as a class. Students will be able to interpret a jam card and tablature.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title: Basic Bass Skills

Time: 1Week

Essential Questions: Conceptual learning questions (SAS)

Connections: Connections to reading, math, science

Resources: Electric Bass, Cord, Sound Board/Speaker, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must know (review): Parts of bass guitar, string names, fret purposes, how to interpret chord chart, basic rhythms, Tablature	Student must be able to: Play basic bass notes based on chords, using correct playing technique; create a basic rhythm pattern; Read Chord Charts; Read Tablature	Guitar, Fret, Rhythm, Pluck, Tablature	Students will be able to play a basic line using a proper technique individually and with a group. Students will be able to interpret a chord chart and tablature.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title: Basic Drum Kit Skills

Time: 1 Week

Essential Questions: Conceptual learning questions (SAS)

Connections: Connections to reading, math, science

Resources: Roland Drum Kit, Sound Board/Speaker, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must know: Equipment names for Drum Kit, purposes of each part of the kit, how to play basic rhythms on the kit, how to read drum Tablature	Student must be able to: Play basic rhythms based on the style of song, using correct playing technique; create a basic rhythm pattern; Read Drum Kit Tablature	Drum Kit, Snare, Hi Hat, Kick or Bass Drum, Suspended and Ride Cymbals, Drumsticks, Rhythm, Tablature	Students will be able to play a basic rhythm using a proper technique individually and with a group. Students will be able to interpret a rhythm.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title:	Ensemble Playing
Time:	9 Weeks
Essential Questions:	Conceptual learning questions (SAS)
Connections:	Connections to reading, math, science (if applicable)
Resources:	All Class Instruments, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must know: Basic song to play basic guitar, keyboards, bass, drum kit using correct technique on songs with the class and small groups	Students must play basic chords, notes, rhythms using the correct technique on each instrument.	Guitar, keyboard, bass, drum kit, chords, rhythm, tablature, jam cards, drumsticks, pick.	Students will be able to play songs on each instrument using basic techniques and rhythm both individually and with a group. Students will be able to interpret the proper tablature for each instrument.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title:	Writing Lyrics
Time:	1 Week
Essential Questions:	Conceptual learning questions (SAS)
Connections:	Connections to reading
Resources:	All Class Instruments, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must be able to select a song, re-write the lyrics, then perform the song.	Students must work with a group to pick a theme, then re-write the lyrics to a song. Once the lyrics are done, they will learn the song with their group and perform for the class.	Parody, lyrics, guitar, keyboard, bass, drum kit, chords, rhythm, tablature, jam cards, drumsticks, pick.	Students will re-write lyrics to an existing song, then learn the instrumental parts, rehearse, and perform for the class.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title: Pentatonic Scales/Boogie/Blues

Time: 2 Weeks

Essential Questions: Conceptual learning questions (SAS)

Connections: Connections to reading and math

Resources: All Class Instruments, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must know: Fretboard pattern Pentatonic Scale pattern Improvisation Basic Boogie pattern (advanced students only)	Students will learn Pentatonic Scale. Advanced students will learn Boogie pattern based on Pentatonic Scale Students will learn basic improvisation.	Guitar, frets, pentatonic, boogie woogie, improvisation	Students will play the pentatonic scale from memory. Students will learn how to improvise on the scale. Advanced students will learn the boogie pattern.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title: Composing Blues Songs

Time: 2 Weeks

Essential Questions: Conceptual learning questions (SAS)

Connections: Connections to reading and math

Resources: All Class Instruments, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must know: Pentatonic Scale, Improvisation, Boogie on guitar or piano, simple blues lyric writing,	Students will: Compose lyrics on a subject of their choice (school appropriate). Select which instruments they will use (one must be an improv instrument) Rehearse their song until it's polished for performance.	Pentatonic Scale, Improvisation, Boogie, 16-bar blues.	Students will be assessed on the pattern of lyrics, ability to play improv, and group performance.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title: Year-end Performance Prep

Time: 1 Week

Essential Questions: Conceptual learning questions (SAS)

Connections: Connections to reading and math

Resources: All Class Instruments, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must: Create a playlist based on their skill level at this point in the year. Proof them for appropriate lyrics.	Students must have basic skills on all instruments in the class: Guitar, Bass, Keyboard, Drum Kit.	Guitar, Bass, Keyboard, Drum Kit, Sound Board, Chords, Tablature, Jam Cards	Students will select songs that have chords/tabs they are able to play or learn, then send me links to make final approval.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

Unit Title: Performance Work in Class

Time: 9 Weeks

Essential Questions: Conceptual learning questions (SAS)

Connections: Connections to reading, math, and science

Resources: All Class Instruments, Modern Band Lesson Books, www.ultimate-guitar.com , www.youtube.com

Content	Skills	Vocabulary	Assessment	Standards
Students must: Decide which instruments they will play for each song on the playlist, then learn those parts. They will also decide full group/small group songs.	Students must know their ability on each instrument well enough to select songs. Students must also know which instruments they would like to play.	Guitar, Bass, Keyboard, Drum Kit, Sound Board, Chords, Tablature, Jam Cards, Ability level.	Students will perform live at a small ensemble concert. Their grade will be based on a rubric: song selection, playing technique; performance level.	National Standards met: https://nationalartsstandards.org/ Creating Performing/Presenting/Producing Responding Connecting

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