

Lessons at a Glance

Elementary

1. Can You Hear Me Now?

Lower Elementary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: STEAM, Acoustics

Theme: Acoustic Guitars - Instrument makers utilize responsive creativity to better serve musicians and ultimately influence the music they make.

2. Guitars Go Electric

Lower Elementary Grades: 30 Minute Music Class

Theme: Electric Guitars - As musical groups changed, and concert spaces grew larger, acoustic guitars could not be heard above the other instruments. Luthiers and engineers experimented with electricity to determine what this then-new technology could do to add volume.

3. Accordion Adventures!

Upper Elementary Grades: 45 Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: Science and Engineering

Theme: Accordions - As people moved around the globe, the instruments they brought with them were sometimes adapted to suit new environments, audiences, and players. These new adaptations often led to new musical styles.

4. Ukulele Popularity Contest

Lower Elementary Grades: 30 Minute Music Class

Theme: Ukuleles - Just as musical genres and styles shift in and out of the popular spotlight, instruments move with them.

5. Music at Home

Lower Elementary Grades: 45 Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: STEAM

Theme: Pianos and Keyboards - This lesson examines the progression of the pianos and their place in home family life from the Victorian era to the modern day. We can use our ears to better understand the different types of keyboards and how they are used.

6. Finding Your Match

Upper Elementary Grades: 45 Minute Music Class

Theme: Woodwinds & Brass, The match between a musician and their instrument is an essential part of making music. For many reasons, though, the right instrument for one musician might be completely different than the right instrument for another. Brass and woodwind manufacturers have learned to make a wide range of instruments.

7. Emerging Technology: Making Music Electric

Upper Elementary Grades: 40 Minute Music Class (Three Day-Unit)

Cross-Curricular: Art, STEAM, Social Studies

Theme: Instruments are created to serve a need and technology changes the ways in which instruments are created and used.

8. Balloon Drums!

Lower Elementary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class (Or divided between two classes: One focused on history and a second on creating drums), Cross-Curricular: STEAM

Theme: How percussionists can find their “voice” using the drums.

9. MIDI Playground

Lower Elementary Grades: 40 Minute Music Class

Theme: The development of MIDI is important to electronic music history. Learning how to import and edit MIDI files helps people compose music and share it with others.

Note: Students will need to have basic familiarity with a DAW (digital audio workstation) such as SoundTrap or GarageBand.

10. My Home Studio

Upper Elementary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: Technology

Theme: Throughout music history, we see how providing musical tools to maximize access and collaboration can keep an industry vibrant and relevant while helping individuals connect to create great music.

11. Changemakers and Creativity

Upper Elementary Grades: 30 Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: Social Studies

Theme: Music and musical instruments are filled with and extended by layers upon layers of rich meaning that are built up by everyone who participates in the music-making process – performers, listeners, producers, engineers, makers, retailers, and countless more. This lesson explores how instruments can be reinterpreted beyond their original intentions to inspire creativity.

12. Musical Globe Trotters

Lower Elementary Grades: 30 Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: Social Studies

Theme: Mandolins - Connections between instruments traveling across the world. Global influence towards development of instruments.

13. Beyond the Instruments

Lower Elementary: 50 Minute Music Class, Cross Curricular: Social Studies

Theme: Musical instruments can come to represent something beyond themselves: works of art, catalysts for cultural change, or sanctuaries of comfort and connection. Music itself can create social change. Throughout the history of time, music has been integral in ushering in change.

14. “I Will Survive” Ingenuity in the Music Industry

Upper Elementary Grades: 30 Minute Class

Theme: This lesson highlights the perseverance and ingenuity of music retailers. Through critical thinking prompts, students get to use creativity and innovative thinking to develop solutions and learn from the past.

15. Ready for Retail!

Lower Elementary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: Business, Marketing

Theme: Music Retailers are an essential part of the music industry. By understanding the role of retail in music, we can better serve future music-makers.

16. How to Create and Market Instruments

Upper Elementary Grades: 45 Minute Music Class (Two class periods)

Cross-Curricular: Social Studies, Entrepreneurship

Theme: Launching a new instrument into the marketplace requires planning, listening to market demands, and executing.