

## **Focus of Learning for Music K – 12**

from *Engaging Students in the Arts: Creating, Performing, Responding*, The Perpich Center for Arts Education, 2004

### **Music:**

#### ***Music: Focus for Primary Level Learning***

Young children learn music by “doing.” They enter the primary level with diverse backgrounds and a wide variety of formal and informal experiences in music.

The focus of student learning at the primary level is to develop basic skills in creating, performing, listening and responding to music.

By learning to read, notate, perform, listen to, move to, discuss and evaluate music, students develop the knowledge and skills to explore music independently and with others. Students at this level need interaction with music from their own cultures as well as the diverse, global world of music.

#### ***Music: Focus for Intermediate Level Learning***

Students should enter the intermediate level with experiences that include creating, performing, listening and responding to music. They should know how to read, notate, perform, listen to, move to, discuss and evaluate music. They should have developed the skills and knowledge to explore music independently and in cooperation with others. They should possess the skills and knowledge to respond to music from their own culture as well as others.

Students at the intermediate level learn best by doing. Singing, playing instruments, and creating music should be the base from which students continue to develop music skills and knowledge. Student learning should focus on the ability to read and notate more complex musical symbols and to extend skills in exploring music independently and with others.

Another focus of student learning includes the skills and knowledge to respond to more complex musical compositions by developing their ability to describe, analyze, interpret, move to, and evaluate music. Engagement with a wide variety of music develops students’ understanding of the diverse, global world of music.

#### ***Music: Focus for Middle Level Learning***

By the time students enter the middle level they should have acquired basic skills in singing, playing instruments, and creating music. They should know how to read and notate using more complex musical symbols and have the skills to explore music independently and with others. Their skill level in responding to music should allow them to describe, analyze, interpret and evaluate more complex musical compositions.

The focus of student learning at the middle level should be developing the skills and knowledge needed to make connections between music and other disciplines. Student learning should also focus on the ability to make informed musical judgments, which requires refinement of listening, analysis, composition, and improvisational skills.

In addition, student learning should focus on building deeper understanding of form and structure. Experiences with a wide variety of music will support students in refining their musical judgment and understanding of musical form and structure.

***Music: Focus for High School Level Learning***

Students entering high school should have the ability to make connections between music and other disciplines as well as the ability to make informed musical judgments. They should have well-developed listening, analyzing, composing and improvising skills and should possess a clear understanding of musical form and structure.

The focus of student learning at the high school level is deeper understanding of music as a product of its time and place and how music can also transcend its original setting. In addition, students learning should focus on refining skills in singing, playing instruments, and composing as a means of creative expression while building a knowledge base of notation and performance traditions which will enable students to learn new music independently throughout their lives. Students should also focus on further refining skills in analysis and evaluation to develop a broad cultural and historical perspective of music.

