

**Warren Township Schools  
Warren Township, NJ**

# **Songwriting Curriculum Grade 7**

Dr. Tami R. Crader  
Superintendent of Schools

Adopted: November 28, 2011

William Kimmick  
Curriculum Coordinator

Stacey Hann-Modugno  
Curriculum Supervisor

# **WARREN TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS**

## **Songwriting**

### **Grade 7**

#### **Purpose/Philosophy**

The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Visual and Performing Arts identifies arts education as essential to the development of original ideas, problem solving skills and overall human, social and economic growth. The implementation of Songwriting will benefit students by:

1. Developing skills significant to the future of the music industry
2. Enabling students to create, perform and critique original musical compositions
3. Providing tools to recognize and create these compositions
4. Fostering a universal understanding of musical concepts, methods and styles

#### **Rationale**

This curriculum has been developed based on the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Visual and Performing Arts.

This program encompasses the styles of composition in American music and segues into the Roots of Rock, the course of study currently being taught at the eighth grade level. This course gives the student a working knowledge of the components of song writing and the components of specific musical styles.

The goal of Songwriting is to teach students to create original compositions through instruction and use of appropriate computer programs. This class provides instruction on both real and virtual guitars. Further, Songwriting encourages students to investigate new methods of creating music and serves as a springboard to future guitar instruction, both as a hobby or an avenue of future career possibilities.

# WARREN TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

## Songwriting

### Grade 7

#### Unit 1: The Blues

Essential Question: How are stories told through song?

<b>NJCCCS CPI#</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES: The learner will be able to:</b>	<b>SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>
1.2.8B(2).1 1.2.8B(2).2 1.2.8B(2).4 1.3.8.B.1 1.4.8.A.1	Write a blues song	Lesson Plan and Curriculum Map Various blues CDs Teacher generated worksheets Vocabulary words	Student handout: 'Find Someone Who...' Original blues songs performance
1.5.8C.1 1.4.8.A.1 1.4.8.B.1 1.4.8C.1	Play a blues song on a Nintendo DS	Lesson Plan and Curriculum Map Teacher generated worksheets Nintendo DS	Individual assessment on DS Peer rating sheets

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**Unit 2: Playing the Blues on the Guitar**

**Essential Question: What is a blues progression?**

<b>NJCCCS CPI#</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES The learner will be able to:</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>
1.2.8B(2).1 1.2.8B(2).2 1.2.8B(2).4 1.4.8.A.3	Play a blues progression on the guitar	Student guitars Teacher generated worksheets Introduction, demonstration and instruction	Teacher observation Individual demonstration
1.3.8.B.1 1.3.8.B.2 1.4.8.B.1	Identify the I, IV and V chord progression in a written score	Student guitars Teacher generated worksheets Demonstration and instruction Handouts Computers: Band in the Box	Student performance Quiz

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### Songwriting Grade 7

#### Unit 3: Original Rock Songs

**Essential Question: How is a rock song created?**

NJCCCS CPI#	OBJECTIVES The learner will be able to:	RESOURCES	ASSESSMENTS
1.2.8B(2).1 1.2.8B(2).2 1.2.8B(2).4	Compose original rock song lyrics	Lesson Plan and Curriculum Map Student notes Actual lyrics from popular rock songs	Completed song
1.2.8B(4).2 1.4.8.A.1	Integrate rock lyrics with a given melody	Lesson Plan and Curriculum Map Rock lyrics/CDs	Individual lyrics set to established melody All songs performed Student critique sheets
1.3.8.B.1 1.4.8.A.3	Perform rock song on Nintendo DS using learned chord progression	Lesson Plan and Curriculum Map Nintendo DS Amplifier	Follow recording with DS Individual assessment Individual performance with amp

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**Unit 4: Playing a Rock Song on the Guitar**

**Essential Question: What is a rock chord progression?**

<b>NJCCCS CPI#</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES The learner will be able to:</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>
1.1.8.B.1 1.3.8.B.1 1.3.8.B.2	Play a rock chord progression on the guitar	Student guitars Teacher generated worksheets Introduction, demonstration and instruction	Teacher observation Individual demonstration
1.3.8.B.1 1.3.8.B.2	Identify the I, IV and V chord progression in a written score	Student guitars Teacher generated worksheets Demonstration and instruction Handouts Computers: Band in a Box	Student performance Quiz
1.3.8.B.1 1.3.8.B.2	Play along with a rock recording	Student guitars Teacher generated worksheets Demonstration and instruction Handouts	Teacher observation Individual demonstration

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**Songwriting**

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**Resources**

1. The Billboard Book of Songwriting. Pickow and Appleby, Blue Giff Editions Book, Billboard Publications Inc/NY. Copyright 1988.
2. The Midi Connection, Teaching Guide, Grades 7 and 8. Silver Burdett Ginn, Parsippany, NJ. Copyright 1998.
3. Band in a Box, Version 13, User's Guide. PG Music, Inc.
4. Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory, 2.0. Windows 98 Version.
5. Teaching Music Technology. Rudolph, GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago. Copyright 1996.
6. Sibelius 2. Finn. Sibelius Software Ltd., Cambridge UK.