



WSMTA

Music Literacy Program Curriculum Guide

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Rhythm Level Guide All Instruments

For all levels, the provided 4 measure rhythm will be clapped/tapped at a metronome tempo of at least 72, preferably with a measure of preparatory counting. Any counting method is allowed, as long as it is correct.

Level 1

Rhythm may include quarter, half or whole notes in 4/4 time

Level 2

Rhythm may include quarter notes and rests, half notes and rests, dotted half notes and whole notes in 4/4 time

Level 3

Rhythm may include eighth note pairs, quarter, half, whole notes and rests, dotted half notes and tied notes in 3/4 or 4/4 time

Level 4

Rhythm may include upbeats, eighth, quarter, dotted quarter and half, whole notes and rests in 4/4 time

Level 5

Rhythm may include eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests, dotted quarter notes, eighth note triplets and upbeats in 4/4 time

Level 6

Rhythm may include sixteenth notes (only groups of 4), eighth, quarter, dotted quarter and half, whole notes and rests, upbeats and eighth note triplets in 3/4, 4/4 or 6/8 time

Level 7

Right hand rhythm may include sixteenth, eighth, dotted eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests, eighth note triplets and upbeats, while the left hand taps steady quarter notes in 3/4 or 4/4 time

Level 8

Hands tap different rhythms simultaneously, may include any combination of notes and rests including sixteenths and upbeats (excluding triplets) in any meter

Level 9

Hands tap different rhythms simultaneously, may include any combination of notes and rests including sixteenths, triplets and upbeats in any meter

Level 10

Hands tap different rhythms simultaneously, may include any combination of notes and rests including sixteenths, triplets, upbeats and duple versus triple patterns between hands

Sight Reading Level Guide

Piano

Sight reading examples will follow the rhythms from their same level.

Level 1

An 8 measure piece in middle C position, using only stepwise motion, hands play separately

Level 2

An 8 measure piece in C position, with steps and skips, very minimal hands together

Level 3

An 8 measure piece in C position adding eighth notes and accidentals

Level 4

An 8 measure piece in C Major, G Major, F Major or A minor with key signatures and accidentals

Level 5

An 8 measure piece in C, G, F Major or A, D or E minor, no longer in a 5-finger pattern

Level 6

A one page early intermediate piece hands together, may include block chords or an Alberti bass pattern

Level 7

A one page intermediate piece

Level 8

This level is broken into two options: a one page classical piece or a one page hymn

Level 9

An upper intermediate piece

Level 10

A lower advanced piece

Technique Level Guide

Piano

Students prepare all required scales for each level, chapters may choose to hear all examples or select from the scales prepared (see Kitsap MTA's Tech Grading Guide)

Level 1

5 scales - both hands, together or separate, five-finger, tetrachord, or one octave, major or minor, white or black key, using correct fingering and a steady pulse, as well as a triad or chord shell (tonic and dominant notes) in the same key

Level 2

5 scales - both hands, together or separate, five-finger, tetrachord, or one octave, major or minor, white or black key, using correct fingering and a steady pulse, as well as a triad in the same key

Level 3

4 scales - 2 major and 2 harmonic minor, tetrachord or one octave, hands separate, using correct fingering and a steady pulse, as well as a root position tonic and dominant triad in the same key, and either a I V I or I V7 I chord progression, hands separate or together

Level 4

4 scales - 2 major and 2 minor (natural and harmonic), one octave, using correct fingering and a steady pulse, as well as root position primary triads, tonic triad inversions up and down, a I-IV-I-V-I or I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression, and a one octave arpeggio, all hands together or separate

Level 5

6 scales - 2 white-key major, 2 black-key major and 2 minor (natural and harmonic), one octave hands together, as well as the three primary chords in root position and inversions up and down (in minor keys, use the harmonic form), a I-IV-I-V-I or I-IV-I-V7-I chord progression, in two chosen keys, prepare a dominant 7th chord in root position resolved to a 2nd inversion tonic triad, and a one octave arpeggio, all hands together

Level 6

All white-key major scales, 2 black-key major scales, 2 minor scales (natural and harmonic) - 2 octaves hands separate or together with correct fingering and steady pulse, as well as a chromatic scale; play a I-IV-I-V-V7-I chord progression (harmonic form for minor V7) with both hands playing the chords, and with LH playing the root; play a dominant 7th chord resolving to a tonic triad in all four inversions; play a 2 octave arpeggio hands together or separate with correct fingering and a steady pulse

Level 7

All white-key minor scales (natural and harmonic), all major scales, one black-key minor with correct fingering and steady pulse; as well as a first inversion I-IV-I-V-V7-I chord progression (harmonic for minor V7) with both hands playing the full chord,

and with LH playing the root; a 2 octave arpeggio hands together with correct fingering and a steady pulse

Level 8

All major and minor scales (natural and harmonic), 4 octaves up and down, hands together, using correct fingering and a steady pulse; as well as a second inversion I-IV-I-V-V7-I chord progression (use harmonic form for minor) with both hands playing the chords, and all three inversions of the chord progression with the root in the LH; play a 4 octave arpeggio, hands together, with correct fingering and a steady pulse

Level 9

All major and minor scales (natural, melodic and harmonic), 4 octaves up and down, using correct fingering and a steady pulse; as well as a I-IV-ii-V-V7-I progression with chords in the RH and octave root notes in the LH (use harmonic form for minors); 4 octave arpeggios, root and first inversion, as well 4 octave dominant 7th arpeggios with a steady pulse and correct fingering

Level 10

All major and minor scales (natural, melodic and harmonic), 2 octaves in eighth notes, 3 octaves in triplets and 4 octaves in sixteenth notes, using correct fingering and a steady pulse; as well as a I-vi-IV-ii-I(first inversion)-V7-I chord progression with chords in the RH and roots in the LH (use harmonic form for minor); 4 octave major and minor arpeggios in root position and inversions, hands together; 4 octave dominant seventh and full-diminished arpeggios in root position, hands together.

Applied Theory Level Guide

Piano

Level 1

Intervals

- Play steps and skips on white keys, up and down
- Play whole and half steps, up and down

Level 2

Intervals

- Play 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 5ths on white keys, up and down
- Play sharped and flatted notes

Level 3

Intervals

- Play 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th in the keys of prepared scales, up from tonic only, using appropriate black keys

Level 4

Intervals

- Play 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8ve, in the keys of prepared scales, up only, beginning on any pitch of the scale, within an 8ve

Level 5

Intervals

- Play major and perfect intervals in the keys of prepared scales, up from tonic only

Level 6

Intervals

- Play major, minor and perfect intervals, up from tonic only, in the keys of prepared scales

Harmonization

- Play a simple folk tune with melody in the RH, harmonized with blocked or broken primary chords in the LH (student and teacher choose the tune and prepare in advance)

Level 7

Intervals

- Play major, minor and perfect intervals, up only, beginning on any white or black key

Chords

- Play major, minor, augmented and diminished triads, root position, in any key
- Play dominant seventh, major seventh and minor seventh chords, root position only, on a white or black key

Level 8

Intervals

- Play major, minor and perfect intervals in any key, up and down

- Play augmented and diminished 4ths, 5ths and 8ves, up only, in any key

Chords

- Play major, minor, augmented and diminished triads, root position and inversions, on any key
- Play dominant seventh, major seventh, and minor seventh chords, root position and inversions, in any key

Level 9

Intervals

- Play major, minor and perfect intervals in any key, up and down
- Play augmented and diminished intervals and tritone, up only, in any key

Chords

- Prepare major seventh, minor seventh, dominant seventh, and diminished seventh chords, root position and inversions, in all keys

Level 10

Intervals

- Play major, minor, perfect, augmented and tritone intervals in any key, up and down

Chords

- Prepare major, minor, dominant, half diminished and fully diminished seventh chords, root position and inversions, in all keys

Written Theory Level Guide

Piano

Level 1

- Identify the number of beats for quarter notes and rests, half notes and whole notes
- Identify and/or draw treble and bass clef symbols
- Recognize and/or give definitions for forte and piano symbols
- Identify note direction as up, down, or repeating
- Identify steps and skips, moving up or down, on the staff or a pictured keyboard
- Identify the letter names of white keys
- Identify and/or draw whole and half steps on a pictured keyboard
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff from first line bass G to fifth line treble F

Level 2

- Identify the number of beats for quarter notes and rests, half notes and rests, dotted half notes, whole notes and rests
- Write in the counting for rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4 or 4/4 meter
- Recognize and/or give the definitions for forte and piano symbols, legato and staccato
- Identify white or black keys on a pictured keyboard
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff from first line bass G to fifth line treble F
- Draw a sharp, flat and natural sign
- Identify white key 2nds, 3rds, 4ths and 5ths on a pictured keyboard and staff

Level 3

- Write in the counting for rhythm examples in 2/4 3/4 or 4/4 meter; may include paired eighth notes, quarter notes and rests, half notes and rests, dotted half notes, and whole notes and rests
- Recognize and/or give the definitions for piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte and forte symbols
- Identify ties and slurs
- Explain the meaning of the numbers in a time signature
- Draw stems for notes on the staff in the proper placement
- Draw sharp, flat and natural symbols on the staff in proper placement
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff, including exterior space notes adjacent to the staff
- Identify 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths and 6ths by distance only on a pictured keyboard and staff
- Identify whole and half steps on the staff

Level 4

- Write in the counting for rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4, or 4/4 meter; may include eighth note pairs, quarter notes and rests, dotted quarter followed by eighth note, half notes and rests, dotted half notes, whole notes and rests, upbeats

- Recognize and/or give the definitions for pianissimo, piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte, fortissimo symbols
- Explain the meaning of the numbers in a time signature
- Recognize and/or give the definitions for accent, 8va and D.C. al Fine
- Give the letter names of notes on the grand staff up to 2 ledger lines above or below the staff
- Identify 2nds, 3rds, 4ths, 5ths, 6ths, 7ths and 8ves by distance only on a pictured keyboard and staff
- Recognize and/or write the pattern of whole and half steps for major and harmonic minor scales
- On a pictured keyboard, complete major triads built on white keys by marking the middle note with an X

Level 5

- Write the counting for rhythm examples in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/8 or 6/8 meter; may include eighth notes and rests, quarter notes and rests, dotted quarter followed by eighth note, half notes and rests, dotted half notes, whole notes and rests, eighth note triplets and upbeats
- Write the sharps in order and the flats in order (by letter name only)
- Identify major key signatures
- Identify written major and perfect intervals on the staff, giving distance and quality, built on any white key
- Identify triads on a pictured keyboard as major or minor
- Add accidentals to form major, natural minor, or harmonic minor scales built on white keys

Level 6

- Using examples provided, complete the measures by filling in the missing beats; examples may be in any meter
- Identify major, minor and perfect intervals on the staff, giving distance and quality, built on any white key
- Write major, minor and perfect intervals on the staff, up only, from white keys
- Write major and minor scales built on white keys
- Identify major key signatures and give the relative minors
- Write major key signatures
- Identify and write major and minor triads on the staff

Level 7

- Using examples provided, complete the measures by filling in the missing beats; examples may be in any meter
- Identify and/or write double sharps and double flats
- Identify major, minor and perfect intervals on the staff, giving distance and quality, built on any key
- Write major, minor and perfect intervals on the staff, up only, built on any key
- Write major and minor scales (natural and harmonic forms) built on white keys and major scales beginning on black keys

- Identify major key signatures and give the relative minors
- Write major, minor, augmented and diminished triads in root position on the staff

Level 8

- Using examples provided, complete the measures by filling in the missing beats; examples may be in any meter
- Write major, natural minor and harmonic minor scales, beginning on any key
- Identify and write parallel and relative minor scales
- Write major, minor and perfect intervals in any key, up and down
- Write augmented and diminished 4ths, 5ths and 8ves, up only, in any key
- Write major, minor, augmented and diminished triads in any inversion
- Identify dominant seventh, major seventh, and minor seventh chords, root position, in any key
- Write white key dominant seventh chords in any inversion

Level 9

- Write the counting for rhythm examples in any meter; write each half beat into examples using any combination of notes and rests through 32nds, including triplets and upbeats
- Identify major, natural, harmonic and melodic minor, whole tone and pentatonic scales and white key modes
- Write major, natural, harmonic and melodic minor scales, beginning on any key, and white key modes
- Write major, minor and perfect intervals, up and down, from any note
- Write augmented and diminished 4ths, 5ths and 8ves, up and down from any note
- Identify tritones as augmented 4ths or diminished 5ths
- Identify and write major seventh, minor seventh, and dominant seventh chords, root position and inversions, in any key
- Identify the key signature of an excerpt

Level 10

- Write major, natural minor, harmonic minor, melodic minor, whole-tone, chromatic, modal or pentatonic scales, beginning on any key
- Identify and write major, minor, dominant, half-diminished and fully-diminished seventh, root position and inversions, in any key
- Analyze the chords in a hymn; give the chord name for each beat and draw an X through non-harmonic tones
- Identify the key, mode or scale of an excerpt

Ear Training Level Guide

Piano

Examples will be played 3 times. All intervals and chords will be played melodically and harmonically, unless otherwise specified.

Level 1

- Identify low, middle and high sounds
- Identify forte and piano dynamic levels
- Identify the direction of 5 notes as moving higher, moving lower, or repeating
- Listen to an 8-measure example, then clap along to the steady beat as it is played a second time
- Identify the general quality of music by choosing the best description from a multiple choice list (i.e. smooth and dreamy, fast and lively etc.)

Level 2

- Identify staccato and legato
- Identify forte and piano dynamic levels
- Identify the direction of three notes as moving higher, moving lower, or repeating
- Listen to an 8-measure example, then clap long with the steady beat as it is played a second time
- Identify steps and skips
- Identify the general quality of music by choosing the best description from a multiple-choice list (i.e. smooth and dreamy, fast and lively etc.)

Level 3

- Identify 2nds, 3rds, 4ths or 5ths, distance only
- Identify triads as major or minor
- Select a rhythmic pattern from two written examples, the pattern will be played twice
- Add a flat or sharp sign in front of a note to indicate movement up or down
- Identify the general quality of music in regard to tempo, dynamic, mood and touch by choosing the best descriptions from a multiple-choice list

Level 4

- Identify perfect 4ths, 5ths and 8ves, labeling with distance and quality, and identify 2nds, 3rds and 6ths by distance only
- Identify the tonality of a short, early level piece as major or minor
- Identify whether the melody of an excerpt is in the treble or bass
- Identify the pulse of a piece of music as having 3 or 4 beats per measure, example will be an elementary level piece with no eighth notes or upbeats
- Rhythmic dictation - 2 measures in 4/4 meter, using any combination of quarter, half, dotted half and whole notes

Level 5

- Identify major 2nds, 3rds, 6ths, 7ths and perfect 4ths, 5ths and 8ves, up only, labeling with distance and quality

- Identify the tonality of a short piece as major or minor
- Identify the pulse of a piece of music as having 3 or 4 beats per measure
- Rhythmic dictation - 2 measures in 4/4 meter, using any combination of eighth, dotted quarter, quarter, half, dotted half and whole notes
- Select a melodic pattern from two written examples

Level 6

- Identify major, minor and perfect intervals, up only, labeling with distance and quality
- Identify scales as major, natural minor, harmonic minor or chromatic
- Identify the form of an early intermediate piece as binary (AB) or ternary (ABA)
- Rhythmic dictation - 4 measures in 4/4 meter, using any combination of four sixteenths, eighth, dotted quarter, quarter, half, dotted half and whole notes
- Melodic dictation - fill in the missing notes in a 4-measure example

Level 7

- Identify major and minor intervals up only, and perfect intervals up and down, labeling with distance and quality
- Identify the tempo of a piece, choosing from a list of Italian terms
- Identify the tonality of a piece as major, minor or bitonal
- Identify the form of a short piece as binary (AB), ternary (ABA) or theme and variations
- rhythmic dictation - 4 measures in 6/8 meter, using any combination of two sixteenths, eighth, quarter, dotted quarter and dotted half notes
- Melodic dictation - 4 measures in 4/4 meter, using simple rhythms

Level 8

- Identify the meter of a piece as simple (duple) or compound
- Identify major, minor and perfect intervals, up and down, labeling with distance and quality
- Identify the tonality of a piece as major, minor or modal
- Identify the texture of a piece as thin, thick/full or imitative
- Identify the form of a piece as binary, ternary, rondo or sonata-allegro
- Rhythmic dictation - 4 measures in 3/4, using any combination of sixteenth, eighth, quarter, half and whole notes, including dotted rhythms
- Melodic dictation - 4 measures in 4/4 meter, using simple rhythms

Level 9

- Identify the meter of a piece as 3/4, 4/4, 6/8 or multi-metric
- Choose the correct tempo from a multiple-choice list of Italian terms
- Identify the tonality of a piece as major, minor, atonal or modal
- Identify the texture of a piece as monophonic, homophonic, or polyphonic
- Identify the form of a piece as binary, ternary, fugue, sonata-allegro, rondo or through composed
- Identify the style of a piece as Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary
- Melodic dictation - 4 measures in any meter

Level 10

- Describe the following elements of a piece:
 - Pulse
 - Tempo
 - Texture
 - Melody
 - Tonality/harmony
 - Form
 - Style
- Melodic dictation - 4 measures in any meter

Options All Instruments

Performance

Perform a solo on your primary or secondary instrument, memory optional

Ensemble

Perform in ensemble a duet, chamber work or an accompaniment

Composition

Perform an original composition (should be notated)

Improvisation

Perform an improvisation, using creative guidelines established ahead of time by the student and teacher

Written Project

Present a written report on a composer, history of an instrument, a stylistic period, musical form, or other music-related topic

Listening Project

Present a brief written commentary about three performances the student has listened to, whether live or recorded

Lead Line

Perform a harmonization using blocked or broken primary chords or using added sixth chords, seventh chords, fills and melodic variations, prepared with the teacher beforehand

Artistic Project

Present an original drawing, poster, collage, or poem related to a musical subject

Electronic/Digital Skills

Describe and demonstrate the use of electronic or digital recording, sampling, sequencing, sound layering, or multi-track recording

Transposition

Perform a piece in the original key and transposed to two different keys, prepared with the teacher beforehand

Transposition/Modulation

Demonstrate one piece played in the original key with modulation to a new key or demonstrate the use of modulation for transitioning from one piece to another

Analysis

Give an oral presentation on a specific work discussing the form, key, melody, harmony, meter, style and composer