

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to identify and play basic piano notes and chords.

Materials and Prep

- Piano or keyboard
- Piano sheet music or online resources
- Pencil and paper for note-taking

Before starting the lesson, make sure the piano or keyboard is set up properly and in working condition. Familiarize yourself with the basics of piano playing, including hand position and note names.

Activities

1. Introduction to Piano

Begin by introducing the piano as a musical instrument. Explain the layout of the keys, including black and white keys, and the concept of octaves. Discuss the importance of hand position and posture while playing.

2. Learning the Notes

Teach the student the names of the notes on the piano. Start with the white keys and gradually introduce the black keys. Practice identifying the notes by playing them one by one.

3. Playing Simple Melodies

Provide the student with simple piano sheet music or online resources with beginner-friendly songs. Guide them through playing these melodies, focusing on correct finger placement and timing.

4. Exploring Chords

Introduce the concept of chords and how they are formed. Teach the student basic major and minor chords and show them how to play them on the piano. Practice transitioning between chords smoothly.

5. Creating a Mini Composition

Encourage the student to use the knowledge gained in the lesson to create a short composition. Provide guidance and feedback as they experiment with different notes, chords, and rhythms.

Eighth Grade Talking Points

- "The piano is a versatile instrument that has been used in various genres of music throughout history."
- "Learning to play the piano can help improve cognitive skills such as concentration, coordination, and memory."
- "Understanding the layout of the piano keys and the concept of octaves is essential for navigating the instrument."
- "Hand position and posture play a crucial role in producing a good sound and preventing

injuries."

- "Notes on the piano are named after the first seven letters of the alphabet: A, B, C, D, E, F, and G."
- "Black keys on the piano represent sharps (#) and flats (b), which alter the pitch of the corresponding white keys."
- "Melodies are created by playing a sequence of notes in a specific order and rhythm."
- "Chords are made up of multiple notes played simultaneously and are the foundation of harmony in music."
- "Major chords have a happy or positive sound, while minor chords sound sad or melancholic."
- "Composing music allows you to express your creativity and emotions through a combination of notes, chords, and rhythms."