

## **RATIONALE FOR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC** **GRADES 4-8**

- ❖ The instrumental music program provides an opportunity for all students to study a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. It focuses on:
  - Conceptual understanding.
  - Musical technique.
  - Expressive growth.
  
- ❖ Instrumental music instruction integrates three main components:
  - Fundamental structures of music.
  - Essential techniques of musical performance.
  - Aesthetic awareness and expressive devices.
  
- ❖ Instrumental music contributes to the total educational program by:
  - Fulfilling artistic and academic needs.
  - Promoting an understanding of our cultural heritage.
  - Providing a source of inspiration, enjoyment, and knowledge.
  - Providing students tools for using technology in education.
  
- ❖ Instrumental music provides opportunities and experiences for the students to:
  - Develop a knowledge of the elements of music.
  - Communicate ideas, feelings, and moods.
  - Develop self-confidence, self-discipline, and personal satisfaction.
  - Encourage expression, exploration, and discovery.
  - Develop the ability to work independently in a small cooperative group and as a member of a large team.
  
- ❖ Learning instrumental music should be relevant to life beyond the classroom:
  - Young musicians need abundant opportunities to see the application of musical skills and concepts in their lives and in the lives of others and to appreciate the variety of musical expressions reflected in an ethnically diverse world.
  - Furthermore, the students will gain an appreciation of the performing arts through participation, encouraging lifelong learning in music and the arts.
  
- ❖ Assessment in instrumental music should reflect the nature of learning music.
  - The instrumental music program should be evaluated using criteria appropriate for the area. Authentic assessment, including portfolio review should, be utilized as much as possible to evaluate the progress of the learner in a manner appropriate to the art.