

Steel Pans

Instructor: John Kollman

contact info

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Steel Pans is a full-immersion class for students who want to learn how to play in a steel pan ensemble. No prior musical experience is necessary to join the class. Students will learn about the different varieties of steel pan instruments within a steel band, and quickly move on to playing songs. Students will learn different rhythmic patterns and melodies on the instruments and how they fit into the ensemble to create music. Emphasis will be given to learning calypso and soca music which is the traditional music of the island of Trinidad where the steel pan was invented. Students will also learn the history of the steel pan and the fascinating process of how they are made. Students will then perform several concerts for the public throughout the year.

Graduation Standards: The number of the standards is referenced in the performance indicators listed in each unit.

Standards:

1. **Disciplinary Literacy**
2. **Creation, Performance, Expression**
3. **Creative Problem Solving**
4. **Aesthetics and Criticism**
5. **Connections**

Unit 1	Music Study
Summary	Students will study, learn, rehearse, and perform steel pan pieces in the calypso/soca style of Trinidad and Tobago. They will learn about different rhythms and how they go together in the ensemble. They will learn how to play independently within their section of the band while hearing different parts playing around them. They will learn about proper playing techniques (mallet grip, how to achieve different dynamics, grace notes, etc.).
Performance Indicators Assessed in Unit	A1 Music Difficulty A3 Listening and Describing B1 Style/Genre
Unit 2	History
Summary	Students will study the history surrounding the invention of the steel pan.
Performance Indicators Assessed in Unit	E1 The Arts, History, and World Cultures
Unit 3	Steel Pan Building

Summary	Students will learn the evolution of steel pan making and tuning. In addition, they will have the option to learn the basic skills of pan-making by working on building a steel pan as an ongoing class project using the appropriate tools and safety equipment.
Performance Indicators Assessed in Unit	C1 Application of Creative Process E4 Impact of the Arts on Lifestyle and Career
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Summative Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances/Concerts will function as summative assessments and count as 70% of the grade. • Students who miss a performance for a legitimate reason will be given an alternate assessment to complete within 5 days of returning to school. 	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Grading of Formative Assessments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formative assessments will count as 30% of the grade. • Formative assessments will be scored on a 0-15 scale based on effort, cooperation and attitude. 	