

PARTS OF A WHOLE



INTRODUCTION

Fifth grade teacher Jamie Militello at Chase Elementary School and teaching artist Jamie Topper meet to identify areas of the 5th grade math curriculum that relate to music concepts. The teaching artist wonders what the students are having trouble learning. The classroom teacher shares that her students are having difficulty understanding the concepts of fractions as part of a whole. The team agrees that physicalizing a fraction in musical time could help students better relate to the math concepts. They work with the idea that one quarter is a base for understanding divisibles. They look at the quarter note both in terms of practical application and more conceptual thinking. One quarter is an easy translation of fractions to musical notes and is the departure point to understanding more complex fractions.

Additionally, the act of creating a musical composition together as a group will also help with one of the fifth grade social/behavioral goals of responsibility. By being responsible for specific parts in the composition, students develop ownership for individual and group learning.

ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS THAT ARE BEING MET INCLUDE:

Mathematics

Standard 6 A: Students who meet the standard can demonstrate knowledge and use of numbers and their many representations in a broad range of theoretical and practical settings.

Fine Arts - Music

Standard 26 A: Students who meet the standard understand processes, traditional tools and modern technologies used in the arts.