**INVENT AN INSTRUMENT**

7th Grade General Music Lesson

Students will use visual art skills and knowledge of musical instruments and participate in the process of creating a new instrument. Students will watch two short youtube videos from “Rare and Strange Instruments” that demonstrates instruments that have been invented that don’t meet traditional requirements of the usual instruments we find in Western music. Following a discussion of the videos and what made those invented instruments different students will use visual art skills and knowledge of musical instruments and participate in the process of creating a new instrument of their own imagination.

Invent an instrument that currently does not exist. Draw the instrument on a poster and present it to the class with the following questions addressed on the poster:

1. How is this instrument used?
2. What styles of music typically utilize this instrument?
3. How is sound produced on this instrument?
4. What is the instrument made out of (wood, plastic, etc.)?
5. What does this instrument sound like?
6. What country is the instrument from and what is its history?
7. Why was it invented—did it have a cultural purpose or use?

Students will work in pairs to do this project. When they are ready (2-3 class periods) to present their work to the class they will have a short 3-5 minute presentation time. Audience manners are expected and there will be opportunity for other students to ask questions about each instrument presented. Students will be assessed on their participation in a group, presentation to the class and detail in their work including answering all questions clearly on the poster.