6th Grade Vocabulary

Semester 1

1. Beat - The pulse of music.
2. Quarter note - Receives ONE beat of SOUND in 4/4.
3. Quarter rest - Receives ONE beat of SILENCE in 4/4.
4. Music Staff - Set of 5 lines and 4 spaces on which music is written.
5. Barlines - Vertical lines that divide the staff into measures.
6. Clef - Symbol that indicates a set of note names.
7. Time signature - Numbers that tell us how many beats are in a measure and what kind of note gets the beat.
8. Half note – Receives two beats of sound.
9. Whole note – Receives four beats of sound.
10. Ledger Lines – Lines that extend the staff above and below.
11. Double Bar – Written at the end of a piece of music.
12. Repeat sign – Double bar with two dots; instructs you to repeat the music.
13. Arco – To Bow
14. Pizzicato – To Pluck
15. Key Signature – Sharps/ flats at the beginning of the staff.
16. Bow Lift – Comma above the staff; lift your bow and reset it on the string at a new place.
17. Dynamics – the volume of music.
18. Forte – Loud; strong dynamic
19. Piano – Quiet; soft dynamic.
20. Scale – a sequence of notes in ascending or descending order.
21. Intonation – the accuracy of pitch.
22. Ledger Lines – lines that extend the staff above or below.
23. Slur – curved line that connects two or more **different pitches.**
24. Tie – curved line that connects notes of the **same pitch.**

Semester 2

1. Tempo – The speed of music.
2. Natural – Cancels a previous sharp (or flat)
3. Dotted half note – 3 beats of sound.
4. Hooked Bowing – Two or more notes played with the same bow direction with a stop between each note.
5. Arpeggio – The outline of a scale. Notes 1, 3, 5, and 8.
6. Coda –“the Tail” The ending section of a piece.
7. D.S. – Dal Segno/ “the sign”. Go back to the
8. Solo – One person playing at a time.
9. Duet – Two people playing at a time.
10. Allegro – Quick; lively tempo.



1. Accent – Emphasis on a note.
2. Caesura – a stop or pause in music.
3. Double Stop – playing two notes at the same time.
4. Composer – A person who writes a piece of music.
5. Common Time – Sometimes replaces the time signature 4/4.
6. Staccato – Notes marked with a dot ABOVE or BELOW the note. Play with a stopped bow stroke and space between the notes.
7. Legato – Long and connected bow stroke.
8. Tempo Markings – Markings above the staff indicating the speed of the music.
9. Pickup – A note that appears before the first full measure.
10. Subdivide – Counting (in your head) smaller beats than you are playing.
11. Mezzo – Medium (mezzo piano/ mezzo forte)
12. Con Moto – with motion
13. Fermata – Hold until cut off.
14. Crescendo – Gradually increase volume.
15. Decrescendo – Gradually decrease volume.