

LESSON PLAN 5: PHONE NUMBER SONGS

Objective: Learning about musical notes and composing

Age range: 8-13

YOU WILL NEED

- ▶ Keyboard
- ▶ Staff paper
- ▶ Phones numbers

This is a fun way to help students learn about musical notes and composing simple melodies using telephone numbers.

METHOD

1. You will need to have explained the basics of musical notes on the keyboard and written notes on staff paper. (*Diagram 1*)
2. On staff paper, have your class draw and number 0 to 9 the sequence of notes from low B to high D – where low B = 0 and high D = 9. (*Diagram 2*)
3. Using the school’s telephone number, get them to write it using the numbered notes. Say, for example, it’s 06 574 2868, it will look like this: (*Diagram 3*)
4. Then translate the numbers into notes. (*Diagram 4*)
5. Using a keyboard play – or get one of the students to play – the school’s number as a simple melody.
6. Once they get the hang of it, ask them to write their own home telephone number in notes (or make up a number if that’s more appropriate). Always use the area code, 0 something, so that the tunes all begin the same.

7. Play each tune on the keyboard. There are a couple of possible activities here.

- Get the students to guess whose number is being played. The first few attempts will be wild guesses, but you’ll gradually narrow it down.
- Ask them to rate the tunes. Perhaps have them mark them out of three (where three = liked; two = okay; one = didn’t like). Add up the scores for each tune and find the ‘best’.
- You could play the tunes backwards to see if that makes a difference.

TOPICS TO DISCUSS

- How do musicians create songs?
- Could a computer be used to make music?
- Why do some songs sound better than others?
- What other number sequences could be used?
- What are the issues involved with downloading music from the Internet?

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NEXT ISSUE: ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES – GET YOUR CLASS TO CREATE AND ATTACH PERSONALISED MESSAGES ON THEIR OUTGOING EMAILS.