

Dear 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Families,

I'm so excited to start something new in the Bethke Music Program. We have just received a classroom set of soprano ukuleles. I will be adding ukulele instruction to the curriculum in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. I have found what looks to be a great resource called Ukulele in the Classroom. My goal is to provide students with another avenue to make learning music fun. The Ukulele in the Classroom curriculum is "a sequential, performance-based ukulele method through which students explore elements of music including melody, harmony, rhythm, form, tempo, dynamics, and tone. Areas of skill include singing, picking, strumming, ear training, sight-reading, improvising, music theory, harmonizing, arranging, and more."

Students will continue to work in the MIE Keyboard Lab as well. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for our kiddos to learn on both the keyboard and a fretted-string instrument. This should be great preparation for all future musical endeavors, especially 6th grade music ensembles.

Included in this letter is a diagram of the parts of the ukulele. That will be one of the first things we learn. I've also included some basic music theory for review. Students may wish to look over this material at home. The more quickly we master the basics, the further we'll be able to progress in making great music together!

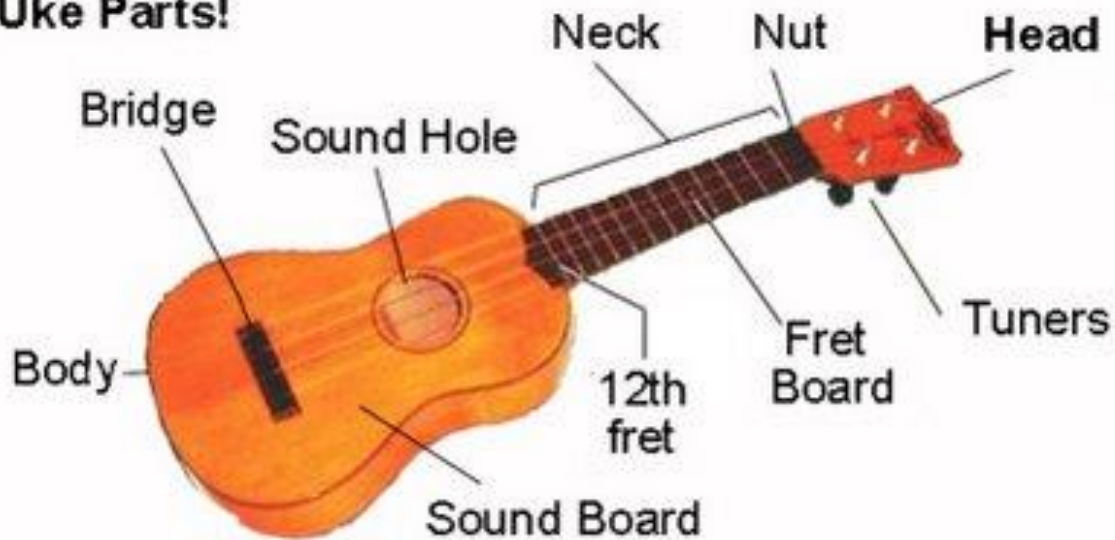
I have also added a "Ukulele" tab to my website (www.aadamsmusic.weebly.com) . Included on this page are several You Tube links that I'm sure the kids will enjoy watching. Be sure to check it out!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at aadams@psdschools.org.

Musically Yours,

Allison Adams

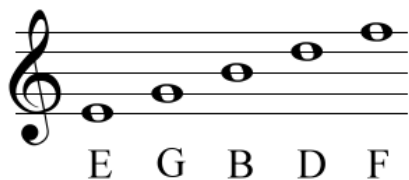
Uke Parts!



Staff

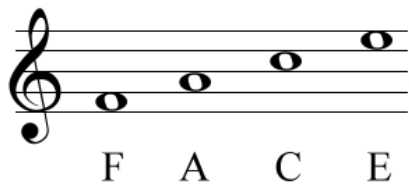
Line 1	Space 1
Line 2	Space 2
Line 3	Space 3
Line 4	Space 4
Line 5	Space 4

Treble Clef Staff

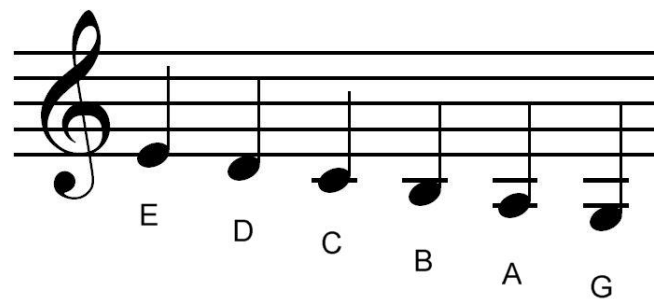


You can use the following sentence to help you remember the lines of the treble clef staff:

Elvis' **G**uitar **B**roke **D**own **F**riday

















You can spell **F A C E** as you move up the spaces of the treble clef staff!

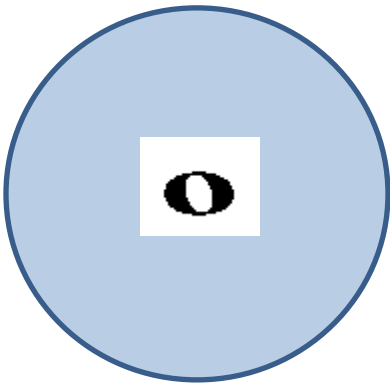


You also need to learn the notes that go below the bottom line of the treble clef staff. Notice how ledger lines are used for middle C, B, A, and G.

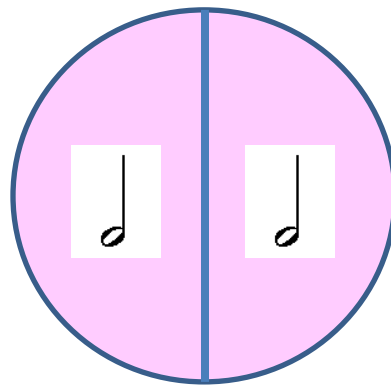
This G below middle C is the lowest note we will play on ukuleles.

Rhythmic Values in Music

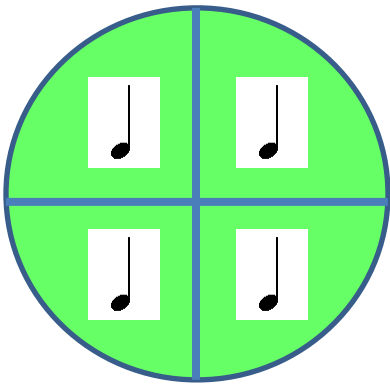
Note/Rest Type	Note Shape	Rest Shape	Rhythmic Value
Quarter note			1 beat
Half note			2 beats
Whole note			4 beats
Eighth note			1/2 beat
16th note			1/4 beat
Dotted quarter note			1 1/2 beats
Dotted half note			3 beats



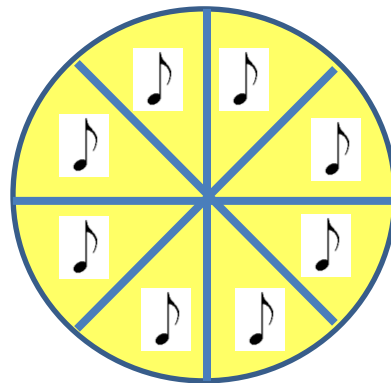
Whole Note



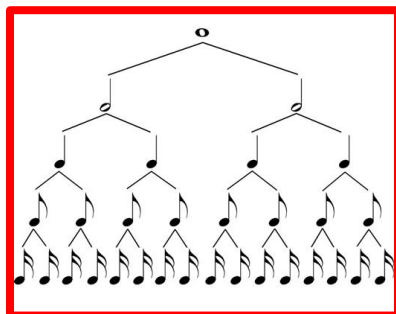
Half Notes

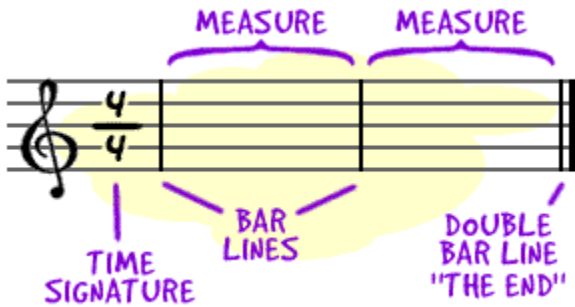
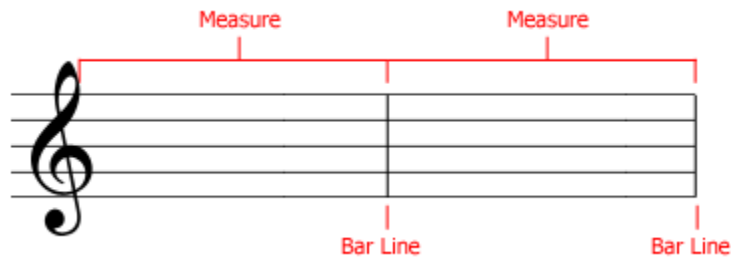


Quarter Notes



Eighth Notes





dynamics

Term:	Symbol:	Effect:
piano	<i>p</i>	soft
pianissimo	<i>pp</i>	very soft
mezzo piano	<i>mp</i>	slightly soft
forte	<i>f</i>	loud
fortissimo	<i>ff</i>	very loud
mezzo forte	<i>mf</i>	slightly loud
fortepiano	<i>fp</i>	loud then soft
sforzando	<i>sfz</i>	sudden accent
crescendo	< < <	gradually louder
diminuendo	> > >	gradually softer

© Brandy Kraemer

Play until you reach the repeat sign

Go back to the beginning once you reach the repeat sign. Ignore the repeat the second time through.

1. Play until the D.S. al Coda then go back to the Coda and play from there.

2. Play from Coda until you reach the D.S. al Coda .

3. Jump to the coda when you get to the Coda .

1. Play until the D.C. al Coda then go back to the beginning and play from there.

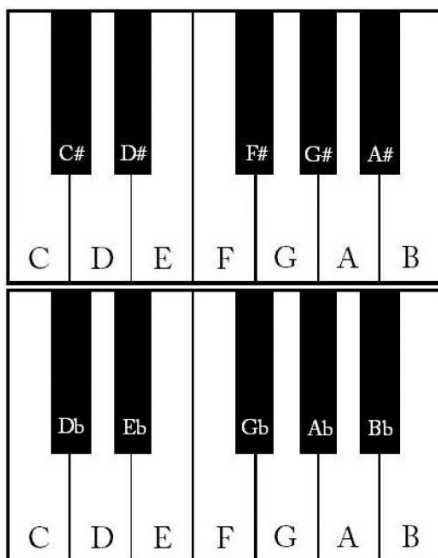
2. Play from the beginning until you reach the Coda .

3. Jump to the coda when you get to the Coda .

The coda will usually be on a separate line as shown here.

1. Play until you reach this repeat sign.

2. Go back and play from the beginning, playing the second ending this time.



*A Sharp raises a pitch by a 1/2 step.

*A Flat lowers a pitch by a 1/2 step.

*A Natural cancels all sharps and flats for that note in the current measure.

*Notice how each black key actually has two names!

