

Scales at Every st(AGE)

Take the Next Best Step

By Debra Haburay

Prelude: The Purpose of Scale Proficiency

Step 1: Master of the Alphabet

- Learn + practice note names before reading notes on the staff (pre-note reading)
- Learn + practice note patterns before reading or playing scale patterns (pre-scales)
- Make it Automatic

Step 2: Speed Staff

- Learn + practice the staff (pre-note reading)
- Learn + practice note reading (pre-music/rhythm reading)
- Make it Automatic

Step 3: Fingerings and Positions

- Label the Keys/Valves/Slide
- Practice moving the Keys/Valves/Slide (pre-playing)
- Key Chant (WW) and Position/Valve Chant (Brass)
- Make it Automatic

Step 4: Notes by Rote (Concurrent with Steps 1 through 3)

- Instrument Specific Instruction
- One Note, Two Notes, Three Notes
- Mini-Scales
- Chromatics
- 3 Note Songs/5 Note Songs

Step 5: Synthesize (Read the Note + Name the Note + Position/Finger the Note)

- Practice with Speed Staff
- Practice with Fingering Charts
- Practice with Scale Sheets
- Practice with Songs/Pieces
- Make it Automatic

Step 6: Basic Scales and Scale Patterns (Beyond the Region Scale Pattern)

- Major 3 Note, 5 Note and 8 Note Scales
- Major 6 Note Scales
- Chromatic Scales

Step 7: Theory!

- Chromatics
- Half Steps and Whole Steps
- The Major Scale Pattern and the 12 Major Scales
- Order of Flats/Order of Sharps
- The Circle of 4ths/5ths

Step 8: Key Signature Chant

- Order of Flats/Order of Sharps
- All the Flat Scales
- All the Sharp Scales
- Make it Automatic

Step 9: Key Signatures

- Read *without* Key Signatures
- Read *with* Key Signatures
- Make it Automatic (this is a critical connection)

Step 10: Scale Circles (To Infinite and Beyond)

- Major 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 Note Scales
- Extended Range
- Chromatic 4, 5, 7, 9, 12 Note Scales
- Scale Circle Workouts
- Make it Automatic!

Postlude: The Purpose of Scale Proficiency

Contact:

Debra Haburay

Forestwood Middle School

haburayd@lisd.net

debrahaburay.com

debra@debrahaburay.com