

# **Uke Can Do It!**

**Presenter:** Tammy Carley  
Denmark School District  
Denmark, Wisconsin

## **Learning Objectives:**

- i. Teachers will be able to teach the fundamentals of an ukulele to students
- ii. Teachers will be able to navigate around the Musicplayonline Curriculum site to find the necessary resources for success in the classroom.
- iii. Teachers will gain access to several folk and pop songs to gain interest and momentum for the curriculum.

## **Materials:**

- Teachers should have access to a ukulele the evening of the class if possible to participate and play along.

## **Standards:**

- Perform
  - Explore and demonstrate an understanding of the elements of music by reading and playing an instrument
  - Perform as part of an ensemble
- Respond
  - Express musical ideas through movement
  - Utilize appropriate musical terminology
- Connect- Explain how music relates to self, others and the world

## **Why Teach Ukulele?**

- Develops fine motor skills

- It is beginner friendly for grades 3 and up
- You can introduce many different genres to music with this instrument
- Students can do this alone or with others

### **Funding the Program**

- Community Businesses help support your program
- Go Fund Me or collection at a concert
- PTO
- Budget on a yearly basis

### **Brands and Styles of Ukuleles**

- 4 sizes of ukuleles
  - Soprano, concert, tenor, and baritone
  - I recommend a soprano for beginners- economical and great for working on hand/eye coordination
- Best Economical Brands:
  - Diamond Head, Kala, Lanikai, Luna ( just a few examples)
  - Price range is around \$40-75, with a vinyl case. I try to shop local and support our local music shops and it gets families familiar with music companies in the area.

### **Basic Fundamentals**

- History of the instrument- Hawaii- show on map
- Treating instrument with respect
- How to handle it, sitting elbow length apart, case under chair
- Demonstrate - mirror your fingers and chords for the students
- Direction of instrument ( I teach ALL right handed) , wiggling fingers, hugging instrument

## First Lesson

- Musicplay Chord Chart- print out chords for students to reference in the classroom
- Put the C7 chord on the smartboard
- Have students repeat what you say when creating a C7 chord
- Discuss the 4 strumming patterns ( 4 quarter notes, quarter note eighth notes, all eighth notes)
- Take chord hand off and on several times for practice
- Whole process should take 15 minutes- try not to overwhelm students with too many chords
- SMILE when playing C7 Chord- Easy Ukulele- Coconut on musicplayonline

## 2nd Lesson

- Review handing of instrument, chord chart, fingers, direction of ukulele, ect.
- Review the C7 chord and play through Coconut on musicplayonline
- Many great songs to choose from on musicplayonline,
  - Jambalya
  - Ukualiens ( youtube)
  - Easy Ukulele online

## Assessment:

- I have a ukulele unit that runs for 5-6 lessons consistently, so prepare around concerts, ect.
- Students are assessed on three chords
- Students come to my desk one at a time and demonstrate proper hand/eye coordination playing the C, C7 and G chord
- Ukulele letter with all the details for purchasing a ukulele for any students that masters the three chords. ( this is the clear expectation on after the 1st lesson- so students do not go home and purchase one right away)

Enjoy the Process and have fun with it with your students. **Feel free to email me or musicplayonline if you have any further questions and/or want to have a zoom set up a call with me to help you with success in the classroom. I am happy to share my ideas with you.**

Tammy Carley

[carleyt@denmark.k12.wi.us](mailto:carleyt@denmark.k12.wi.us)

Denmark Elementary School

Denmark, Wisconsin