



5th Grade Music Curriculum

Overall View of 5th Grade Music

In general music class we have fun, work hard, and pursue excellence as we learn about the beautiful world of music. As in learning a spoken language, students will work to become excellent musicians by engaging in music through reading, writing, listening, singing/saying, and vocabulary use. Students will explore the artistic side of music through performance, improvisation, and composition. Moreover, they will play instruments such as the recorder, metallophones, xylophones, and percussion instruments.

With examples of American and world folk songs, and other quality music as a basis for class materials, the fifth grade music curriculum pulls from a variety of resources to find what works best for the students in each class. Singing games, rhythm instruments (such as percussion, ukulele, guitar), theory, composition, biography, and moving to the music are a few examples of class activities. Students will joyfully learn to both sing and play instruments at the same time.

Guidelines and Highlights of 5th Grade Music Class

- Warm up with vocal exercises
- Review fundamental music theory
- Sing and enjoy folk songs and folk music from the U.S. and the world
- Study Beethoven and other classical composers – work on biography projects
- Listen to classical music and analyze the music
- Take part in workshops led by speakers/players of percussion and ukulele (guitar)
- Field trip to watch The Cleveland Orchestra perform
- Engage in the ensemble experience of putting singers and all instruments together
- Study improvisation and composition

Note from Jose Alicea, who will direct the ukulele workshop: This year students will be introduced to rhythm percussion and the ukulele. With rhythm percussion, students will learn the basic building blocks of rhythm. They will also touch on listening and picking up the rhythm of a song, as well as creating principal and secondary rhythm in a song. Students will not only experience rhythm, but they will use their creativity to create new rhythms themselves. With the ukulele, they will be introduced to chording and fingering basics and learn common strumming

patterns. Students will also learn to play (and sing!) common American folksongs on the ukulele. This will do well for students who would like to pursue the ukulele more and also serves as an introductory instrument to the guitar.

Purchase of a ukulele: For parents who would like to buy their children a ukulele, I recommend they look for a soprano size ukulele under these brand names: Kala, Kohala, or Lanai. These are all good beginner ukuleles. I also recommend they buy a Snark brand clip-on tuner. They are inexpensive and do a good job for a beginner of any stringed instrument. Kala brand has a cheaper model of ukulele called the Makala. Beware of this brand as it is a mixed bag. They make both ok and very cheap ukuleles and sell them under this name: Makala. They usually are painted with a thick colorful resin paint to make it attractive and to hide the cheap material. This may be fine for one-year use. **If you desire to purchase a ukulele that can be enjoyed for more than this year, then I recommend buying an all-wood soprano ukulele with a price range of about \$50 to \$60 dollars.** It's good if one can buy a ukulele and also get a case for it, even if it is just a canvas case. Ukuleles come in two shapes, your usual curved body and a more oval shape called the "pineapple" shape. One can choose between one and the other, it will not affect the sound. **There are a few websites and a local store that have good prices on ukuleles.** They are: amazon.com, samash.com, and sweetwater.com, or Skyline Music (440-871-4140).

Important Note on Ukulele/Percussion Workshop: This quarter students will focus on a ukulele and percussion workshop. Everyone is encouraged to buy or lease a ukulele and bring it to school before Thursday, September 7.

**Please fill out and sign following form and return to Mrs. Chu's mailbox
by Thursday, August 31.**

() I will buy a ukulele and bring it to school by September 7.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Email: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____