

## Fourth and Fifth Grade General Music Syllabus 2011-2012

Instructor  
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### Course Description

Music for grades four and five will include multiple aspects of music involvement, music-making, listening and performing. Students will learn a set of vocal music selected with age-appropriate repertoire, featuring beautiful texts and excellent choral writing. A valuable part of music instruction will be correct vocal production, sight-singing skills and the beginning elements of music theory. Students will play the pitched "Orff" instruments and learn and play notes from a written score. Listening examples will include excerpts from the music of famous composers throughout music history. Recorder instruction is a part of the curriculum with students learning to manipulate more advanced fingering. The fifth grade students will attend a program in the second semester, in which the three music options for their sixth grade year will be presented by Mrs. Morgan (string teacher), Mr. Barnett (Mr. Barnett) and Mrs. LeDoux (vocal music).

### Learning Objectives and Benchmarks

Students will be empowered to use their voices correctly, stretching their vocal range and enabling them to sing music in two parts. Vocal expression and interpretation will be a vital part of the learning process. Becoming comfortable with a printed score of vocal music, including clefs, key and time signatures, note values, dynamics, tempo and pitches will be a goal for each student. From rhythm cards, students will translate body percussion to drums and barred instruments. They will be taught the basic elements of form, from simple songs to large-scale techniques used in symphonies. Listening plays a large role in music. Students will listen to major and minor chords and be able to distinguish the difference. They will be able to hear a chord and pick out and sing one note of that chord. They will hear the quiet sound of a tuning fork in their ear, on their head, and magnified on the sound board of the piano. They will become "musical detectives" as they search for answers to questions about their music.

Benchmarks will naturally follow the learning objectives. Through the hands on work of learning to play instruments, from drums, recorders and Orff instruments, to finding their place in a piece of music, noticing and identifying the musical symbols on the page, students will be full participants in the learning process. Time spent in group vocal warm-ups and learning the choral parts to the music in their folders will manifest itself in all students learning proper vocal technique.

### Preparation for Class/ Course Materials

A folder of music for each student  
Music Theory, Book I  
Choral Skills #1/2  
Orff and Rhythm books  
Teacher reference books

### Methods of Instruction

Mrs. LeDoux translates her passion for music through much physical energy and joy. Students will be up and down, change rooms, sing and play outside, or on some surprise occasions, flat on their backs on the floor. They will use hand-signs to sing the scale (La Scala). They will listen to great music with tools given for special places to notice, move to various instruments in the room, have recorder instruction, and learn to read simple rhythms and note patterns through the use of flash cards.

Each music class will be eventually working toward an end-of-the-semester program. These programs are listed in the school calendar and are performed by both fourth and fifth grades. Most of the elements described above will be included in each program.

### Assessment

No grades are given. Students will be evaluated by their participation in classroom activities throughout the semester. Those who may struggle in any particular area will be given special attention. While it is understood that the fine motor skills involved in playing a recorder may not come easily for some, the same student may excel at playing a drum. Likewise a student who may struggle with matching pitch, may finger a recorder masterfully. However that does not exempt any student from doing his or her best, with teacher assistance to achieve a benchmark level of achievement in all the areas of music exposure.

### Projected Course Schedule

Students meet for music every other day for one semester. A program at the end of the semester which includes both fourth and fifth grade music semesters is listed on the school calendar. The first semester program is December 10 and second semester program is May 13, both at 2:00 in the All Souls Chapel.