

Music at Ellis School

Home-School Connections

Students at Ellis School engage in music instruction beginning in Kindergarten. The overall purpose of our program is for students to appreciate music in all its forms. While music is a subject in and of itself, instruction includes the application of mathematics and literacy along with some history and the science of sound. Students enjoy learning about a variety of instruments and the challenge of creating.

Kindergarten through Second Grades

The Kindergarten through second grade students sing simple songs and rounds. They can sing with loud and soft volume, high and low notes, and at different tempos. Students play the bells to learn about scales and learn the piano key letter names. They will use their own space, create a circle and make a line to play games such as "London Bridge" and "Farmer in the Dell." In second grade students begin playing the recorder which is typically their first experience with an instrument. They will learn the instrument families and identify them.

Kindergarten "I can" statements

- I can sing songs.
- I can move in a circle and a line.
- I can identify instruments.

First Grade "I can" statements

- I can sing and move at the same time.
- I can identify the piano keys from "C" to "C".
- I can play a scale on the bells.

Second Grade "I can" statements

- I can sing songs in rounds and canons.
- I can play the recorder.
- I can play simple arrangements on the piano.

At home you can support learning by:

- Singing songs
- Going to a concert or play
- Playing musical games
- Using MUSIC TECH TEACHER to play games (www.musictechteacher.com)

Third and Fourth Grades

The third and fourth graders learn to sing in harmony. They are able to identify alto and soprano voice parts. They learn to play the piano using the correct fingers and advance on their ability to identify instruments by their sounds. Third and Fourth Graders Grade students are able to identify and play rhythms and can sing songs in other languages. They learn about at least one period of music such as the Classical period.

Third and Fourth Grades "I can" statements:

- I can sing songs in two parts.
- I can play three songs on the piano using the proper fingers

At home you can support learning by:

- Singing songs in parts
- Practicing the piano or another instrument
- Using MUSIC TECHTEACHER to play games:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can identify instruments • I can make play simple rhythms on the drum • I know about the Classical period 	<p>(www.musictechteacher.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a play and/or a concert
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Fifth and Sixth Grades

The fifth and sixth grade students continue to play the piano and learn songs using the correct fingering. They begin to compose music on the piano. They sing songs in harmony and of different genres. There is much focus on music theory and terminology. They continue the use of MUSIC TECH TEACHER to enhance their knowledge of keyboard and percussion skills. Music works are now identified by emotion and form. Students begin to learn about the history of music through different musicals and musical eras. They are introduced to jazz and blues as well as identifying the main instruments used in several genres of music and are able to identify rhythms on the percussion instruments. They study several musicians and their work. Students learn the basic strings on the guitar and play simple melodies on the low “E” string. They study of the lives of musicians such as Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley. There is at least one musical studied each year.

<p>Fifth and Six Grade “I can” statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can sing in harmony. • I can identify emotion in music. • I can discuss different musicians in different time periods. • I can identify instruments. • I am learning to compose on the piano. 	<p>At home you can support learning by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singing songs in parts • Playing piano and drums at home • Using MUSIC TECH TEACHER to play games • Attend a concert/and or play
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Seventh and Eighth Grades

The seventh and eighth grades focus on music careers and history. Students learn about the past through Music. There is a unit on composers and musicians from the past and present. Students study composers and musical theatre. The study of piano composition is another focus. They are able to describe the events surrounding the composition of a song. They can identify the musical vocabulary such as “adagio, allegro, pianissimo, largo, forte, and accelerando.” They are able to sing in harmony and read vocal music.

<p>Grade Seven and Eight “I can” statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can sing in harmony. • I can identify emotion in music. • I learn about different musicians in different time periods. • I can identify instruments. • I am learning to compose on the piano. • I can understand emotion behind music. • I can use musical vocabulary correctly. 	<p>At home you can support learning by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singing songs in parts • Playing piano and drums at home • Using MUSIC TECH TEACHER to play games • Discussing the history of music • Enjoying a variety of musicians • Attending concerts of listening to music together
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