

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School

Primary Music Program

Russell Leon Hersen

Curriculum Night

Grades 1-3

This year the primary students at JICS will continue to focus on a combination of reading and writing music with a whole-body approach to understand music. Movement and music makes for a deeper understanding of music principals such as rhythm, pitch, melody, tempo, dynamics...more by better connecting the ears, eyes and brain to the entire body. The focus will be on music fundamentals, learning instruments, ear training, reading and writing notation, composition, performance and lots of singing.

Understanding that posture and breathe are very important to achieving a good sound. Then they will match pitches with their voices, then sing intervals, scales, then songs. It's always good to warm up the voice before singing a song.

This fall, the class will explore different tempos and dynamics in music by combining observing music symbols, discussing, and then moving to different speeds and volumes of music.

JICS also has many different types of instruments that each student will have the opportunity to play, including pianos, guitars, maracas, guiros, hand drums, claves, boomwhackers, xylophones, ukuleles, and glockenspiels to name a few. Any student who wants to perform always has an opportunity to play the piano or any instrument they bring to school for a class performance. The students will have an opportunity to perform at assemblies and concerts throughout the year.

The students will continue to learn how to carefully listen/watch different styles of music from around the world, and identify instruments, rhythms, scales as well as discover the genre and discuss the history and social context relating to different music.

Students will also focus on learning to read and write music notation. Each student will compose rhythmic compositions on staff paper and listen to what it sounds like, or perform it themselves. This year we will focus on understanding pitch, notes and how scales create melody. Learning to notate music combined with singing or playing an instrument, or adding a full body movement approach is essential to understanding music at a deeper level. The lessons start very simple for each grade and build according to the skill of the class.

Once basic rhythms and pitches are learned, the students will be able to start composing melodic compositions and performing them in front of the class

if they wish. Lessons integrate live performance, video/audio examples, I am also working with music software programs that use called Logic Pro X, Chrome music lab, Ear Master Pro and Smart board technology.

