

Early Years Music at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study 2026-27

Bailey Grineage/Suzanne Schwenger (Term 1)

Nursery

The Nursery preparatory music curriculum at Jackman ICS integrates elements of Kodaly, Orff and Dalcroze methodologies through fingerplays, spoken word chants, and movement games from around the world. The program supports the children's love of imaginative play, with a focus on having fun with music. As the year progresses, the children will explore music-making from a variety of perspectives, including movement, rhyme, listening activities, body percussion, and playing simple percussion instruments, such as bells, sticks, shakers, and chime bars. The Nursery children will develop their singing voices and will gain greater awareness of their bodies in motion as they walk, march, gallop, run, and stomp to the steady beat.

Junior Kindergarten

The JK children will continue to explore the concept of '*steady beat*' through a series of Orff games, rhymes and listening activities. The children are learning to imitate and create patterns in song, speech, body percussion, and movement. They will have an opportunity to play and improvise on non-pitched percussion instruments (bells, shakers, sticks, and hand drums), and pitched chime bars. The children will develop their singing voices, with a greater focus on the quality of vocal production and sense of pitch, both independently and in a large group. They will also learn about the basic elements of musical form through listening activities and expressive movement with classical and world music, including a focus on African-American traditions during Black History Month. The JKs will have an opportunity to participate in the school-wide Festivals of Light celebration in December. At the end of the year, they will join the SKs to perform at their first Jackman ICS Music Morning in May of 2027.

Senior Kindergarten

During the SK year, the children will deepen their understanding of many musical elements including tempo, dynamics, how to discriminate between beat and rhythm, form, and basic solfège symbols. They will continue to develop the quality and range of their voices, singing both independently and as a group, and will participate in more complex movement games, such as circle games, and simple dances with partners. The SK children will listen and respond to musical traditions from around the world, including a listening and movement focus for Black History Month in February. They will have an opportunity to play and improvise using body percussion, non-pitched percussion instruments (hand drums, bells, sticks, shakers) and pitched percussion Orff instruments (xylophone, metallophone, glockenspiel). In December, the SKs will join the whole of JICS in a celebration of Festivals of Light. The year culminates with a special live performance at the annual Jackman ICS Music Morning in May of 2027.