Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School

Music Program for Grades 4-6

Russell Leon Hersen   *Curriculum Night 2023*

This year the students at JICS will continue to focus on a whole-body approach combined with understanding musical notation to understanding music. Movement and music make for a deeper understanding of music principles such as rhythm, pitch, melody, dynamics...more by better connecting the brain to the body. Singing is an important part of the JICS music experience. We started the term by singing pitches, intervals, scales, and then songs. Singing has been valuable to the music program since the students love singing and singing has such a positive impact on mental health. I will also be giving some songs and exercises for students to work on at home so please encourage all singing at home. This year I would like the students to choose a composer they like and give a short presentation to the class with audio examples and a biography. The music program at JICS also has many different types of percussion instruments that each student will have the opportunity to play, including maracas, guiros, hand drums, claves and glockenspiels to name a few. Ukuleles will also be introduced. 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. Students who are not taking private lessons outside of JICS are welcome to improvise on an

instrument of their choice. The students will continue to learn how to carefully listen/watch different styles of music from around the world, and identify instruments, rhythms, and scales as well as discuss the history and social context relating to different music. Students will also focus on learning to read and write music. Expectations will be grade-specific. Learning to notate music combined with a full-body movement approach is essential to understanding music at a deeper level. Once basic rhythms and pitches are learned, the students will be able to start composing and performing. Lessons integrate live performance, and video/audio examples, I am also working with music software such as Logic Pro X, Chrome Music Lab, Ear Master Pro and Smartboard technology. There will be performances scheduled throughout the year ending with Music Night.