

**Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School**



**Music Program for Grades 1-6**

*Russell Leon Hersen*

*Curriculum Night 2021*

I teach music to students in Grades 1-6. This year the students at JICS will focus on a whole-body approach to understand music. Movement and music makes for a deeper understanding of music principals such as rhythm, pitch, melody, dynamics and more by better connecting the brain to the body. So far this year, singing is allowed. We have started the term discussing, then singing pitches, intervals, scales, and songs. Singing has been valuable to the music program since the students love singing and singing has such positive impact on mental health. I will also be providing some songs and exercises for students to work on at home so please encourage all singing at home. The music program currently has all classes from Grade One to Grade Six playing the ukulele at different levels. JICS also has many different types of percussion instruments, including glockenspiels. 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 continue to learn how to carefully listen/watch different styles of music from around the world, and identify instruments, rhythms, 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. Each student in the school has a personal manuscript book with both staff paper and lined paper that they will use all year. 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.

I will hopefully be teaching in person all year. If not, I will be teaching on Zoom out of my home studio, occasionally teaching outdoor socially distanced classes, weather and outdoor space permitting. I have found that teaching out of my studio works very well. I have access to a huge music library, many instruments and technology at my fingertips. Lessons integrate live performance, video/audio examples, I am also working with music software such as Logic Pro X, Chrome music lab, Ear Master Pro and Smart board technology.

I have been teaching at JICS for 22 years and although this year is very different from every other year. I look forward to making music with your children and helping them grow as musicians.