

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School

Junior Music Program

Russell Leon Hersen

Curriculum Night 2024

Grades 4-6

This year the junior students at JICS will continue to focus on reading and writing music with a whole-body approach to better 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.

This year is the first year that the music classes have been divided into 2 half classes. I will focus on music fundamentals, learning instruments, reading and writing notation, composition and performance. There still will be singing in my classes.

In the fall, we started learning a simple melody on the glockenspiel, and simple chords on the ukulele to accompany a song that was written in 6/8 time. The students had to understand and feel the difference between different time signatures. After the melody, strum

pattern and chords are learned, the students will be able to choose an instrument to perform this song. Everyone will sing.

JICS also has many different types of percussion instruments that each student will have the opportunity to play, including 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. 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 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.