

Ricks Center Music Program

The Ricks Center music program is designed to meet the National Standards for Music Education including singing, playing instruments, improvising and composing, reading and notating music, music listening, evaluating music in relation to history and culture. In addition, the music curriculum is closely integrated with classroom units.

The early childhood music curriculum includes music and movement activities to develop sense of rhythm and steady beat, singing, and listening skills. Children perform on small percussion instruments and melody bells. Students are encouraged to express themselves through many creative movement activities.

Once students reach kindergarten, they continue to participate in music activities related to their classroom unit. Students also begin sight reading notes and rhythms. Singing, composition, creative movement, and music listening are also incorporated into the curriculum. The classes have opportunities to play various instruments xylophones, glockenspiels, metallophones, hand drums, and percussion instruments. Instrumental activities focus on keeping steady beat accompaniments as well as improvisation. Students are developing their musical ear as well as learning to read and understand music at this level. Additional music units include listening and identifying music of the great composers and familiarity with instruments of the orchestra.

Upper primary and upper school music classes include chorus, percussion, composition, recorder, keyboard, music history, and multicultural music. These classes are designed to improve sight reading skills, improvisation, knowledge of music history, and music from a multicultural perspective. Children participating in music classes are learning to focus on a task and collaborate with others. In addition, preparing for performances develops perseverance and a drive for excellence while working with others to create performance pieces.

Philosophy:

I believe music should be taught in a flexible manner, responding to the needs of each unique group of students. Music activities utilize visual, aural, and kinesthetic activities to enhance the learning experience. Music is integrated into classroom units, as well as drama, movement, and visual art, creating a dynamic and challenging environment.