



NEST+m Lower Grades Music Curriculum Letter

Course: Music, Grade 5
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Year: 2016-2017

Greetings to all students!
I am excited for the year ahead with all of you. Welcome!

Grade five is the beginning of a wonderful journey. Together we will discover the joys and complexities of music. Let's get started.

This course is a performance based class where all students will learn how to play an instrument. As a concert band program, students may choose an instrument from the brass, woodwind, or percussion families. (See the class syllabus for specific instrument choices).

NEST+m does not offer a string program. String players, do not despair: there are after-school options and, by permission of the instructor, some experienced string players do continue on their instrument in our band program. Consult your teacher if this applies to you.

Through playing music, students will discover many new skills by way of performance practice, active listening, thoughtful discussion, and the exposure to new sounds, artists, and styles. While music history and theory are not the focus of our journey, they will be addressed when it serves or informs the music we are studying.

Our primary focus is on music performance and mastery of the material. Through this process, we strive to create an environment where students have a positive experience. Music is fun. Music is a creative pursuit. If I can teach students to love making music and to learn a new skill or two (like playing an instrument) along the way, I would consider our journey to be a success.

The Fifth Grade Music Curriculum is aligned with the New York State Arts Standards, the NYC Blueprint for the Arts, and the National Core Arts Standards.

Learning Objectives for Lower Grades:

1. To integrate elements of music and notation through performance.
2. To express themselves as musicians through performance, improvisation, and composition.
3. To apply instrumental technique to interpret music.
4. To develop leadership skills by sharing performance, ensemble, and class responsibilities.
5. To model music-making procedures and behaviors in the classroom and on the stage.

Units of Study: (Experiences will vary depending on the class tempo/progress).

1. Ensemble performance: learning the literature & playing in a band.
2. Sectional & solo performance: learning proper technique for your instrument.
3. Music Literacy: learning the notes and rhythms. Standard notation & graphic notation.
4. Reflection: how to analyze, critique, and talk about music. Developing a vocabulary.

Assessment:

1. Attendance.
2. Preparedness (present with instrument and music).
3. Participation (engagement and effort).

If you have questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am looking forward to meeting everyone.

Sincerely,

Pieter Voorhees
Room 069