



MUSIC CURRICULUM

Walnut Elementary School

FIRST GRADE

In First Grade, we use sign language and movement in our singing and learning of new songs which develop the neuron pathways that activate higher learning centers of the brain, stimulating the corpus callosum, and developing the inner ear. We learn songs that use movement to reflect focus listening, and review and learn basic music notation with the use of rhythm instruments.

Throughout the year, other songs are taught that support the holidays, American history, patriotic songs and cultural heritage.

SECOND GRADE

Second graders continue to enjoy our lively, character building songs learned in first grade as well as applying their musical knowledge of music notation in making up simple rhythmic phrases with school instruments.

Character building, holiday and patriotic songs are used throughout the year to support classroom activities and studies.

THIRD GRADE

In third grade a variety of songs and lessons are learned and sung supplementing and supporting the Third Grade curriculum. A detailed study of orchestral instruments is learned in preparation for a visit to the symphony and/or a visit from "The Music Van." Rounds and partner songs are learned to introduce harmony. Actual Native American songs from various tribes are learned in English and in the native tribe's language (with some dancing!) supplementing the social studies curriculum.

FOURTH GRADE

Fourth Grade music classes review and use our knowledge of musical notation by learning to play recorders. We also learn songs of the pioneers during the westward expansion of the United States. Proper vocal production in a performance setting is practiced in preparation for the end of the year musical.

Americana and cultural heritage songs are also sung throughout the year.



FIFTH GRADE

Fifth Graders study a music history from the famous classical composers and their works to a study of jazz and the various types under that genre.

In addition to our cultural heritage songs sung throughout the year, Fifth Graders study the folk songs sung during the colonial and the revolutionary periods, which ties into their social studies curriculum. Fifth graders also are introduced to playing hand chimes, which develops eye and hand co-ordination. These, plus a continuation of playing recorders and vocal production are woven together for a very unique 5th grade presentation. Vocal skills are again demonstrated during their culmination ceremony at the end of the school year.

