

MUSIC AT MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM SCHOOL

The music program at Mary, Seat of Wisdom School is an active music curriculum for children. It is organized by grade level and presented chronologically. The curriculum sequences musical skills and objectives that support the National Standards for Arts Education. As good teaching is diverse, this curriculum is eclectic. It embraces several philosophies, including the principles of Orff Schulwerk and the Kodaly approach to reading rhythm and melody. Objectives are categorized into five conceptual areas: rhythm, melody, harmony, form and timbre.

Students approach objectives through a variety of experiences: movement, speech, song, listening, playing and notation. Lessons unfold through different stages of learning: imitation, exploration, improvisation and visualization.

The rules in the music room are simple and apply to all grades.

1. Raise your hand to speak.
2. Be an active participant.
3. Be kind and considerate.
4. Play instruments when asked.

All students are assessed on participation. In addition, beginning in grade 3, students are assessed on individual musical skills. Students in grades 6 through 8 are also assessed on musical skills in small performance groups.

Kindergarten students attend music class twice a week . The class length is 20 minutes. Students in grades 1 through 4 attend music twice a week. The class length is 30 minutes. Students in grades 5 through 8 attend music classes by trimester. These classes meet 3 times a week for 50 minutes for one trimester each school year.

As I begin my 18th year teaching music at Mary, Seat of Wisdom, I am very happy to be back in the music room -- room 102 -- with your children. I know we will have a great year!

Ms. Dittmore