

K-5 (Red-Blue) Music Curriculum

All age groups will learn about the basic elements of music to the extent of which they are developmentally capable. All ages will experience the elements as ways they can shape the music we make together and individually outside the classroom. Each group will review material listed for previous grades.

Dynamics:

Red: loud/soft (forte/piano terminology), getting louder/getting softer, appropriate singing dynamics, 4 voices

Orange: mezzo forte, pianissimo, fortissimo

Yellow: mezzo piano, crescendo/decrescendo, sudden dynamic shifts

Green-Blue: subito, messa di voce

Tempo:

Red and Orange: fast/slow, getting faster/getting slower, sudden changes in tempo

Yellow: fermata

Green and Turquoise: accelerando, ritardando, allegro, moderato, adagio, presto, largo, andante

Blue: lento, allegretto

Articulation:

Red and Orange: smooth and connected, short and detached, legato/staccato, phrasing

Yellow: accents

Green: articulation markings for legato, staccato, and accents

Turquoise and Blue: slurs, marcato

Mood:

All groups will experiment with a variety of moods and determine what musical elements characterize particular musical moods.

Rhythm and Beat:

Red and Orange: steady beat, no beat, rhythm, silent beat, audiation

Yellow-Blue: offbeat

Duration:

Red: long/short sounds, one sound per beat (1/4 note), two sounds per beat (1/8 notes), no sound on beat (1/4 rest)

Orange: half note and half rest

Yellow: tie, four sounds on beat (1/16 notes)

Green: 1/16 1/16 1/8, whole note, dotted half note, 1/8 1/16 1/16, eighth note

Turquoise: syncopation, dotted ¼

Blue: triplets

Meter:

Red: strong beat, weak beat

Orange: meter in 4

Yellow: meter in 2

Green: meter in 3

Turquoise: 6/8 meter

Blue: meter in 5 and 7, mixed meter

Pattern:

Red: sound/silence, same/different

Orange: ostinato

Yellow: combinations including half notes and 1/16 notes

Green: even and uneven patterns (dotted rhythms)

Turquoise: swung eighths, syncopation

Blue: motive

Form:

Red: same/different, echo, call and response, introduction, verse/refrain, aba

Orange: ab

Yellow: rondo

Green: D.C. al fine

Turquoise: first and second endings, theme and variations

Blue: 12 bar blues, march, overture, finale, movement, sonata-allegro, concerto, opera, symphony, jazz, classical, country, rock, etc.

Melody:

Red: high/low, upward/downward, do, mi, sol, la (singing, hand signs, and on a reduced staff)

Orange: steps, skips, and repeated pitches, re (singing, hand signs, and on reduced staff)

Yellow: fa, ti (singing, hand signs, and on full staff), letter names of treble clef lines and spaces

Green: melodic sequences, unison, octave, pitch letter names, letter names of bass clef lines and spaces

Turquoise and Blue: other intervals, register, whole and half steps

Texture:

Red: one sound/more than one sound

Orange and Yellow: accompaniment, ostinato

Green and Turquoise: harmony/no harmony, 2-part singing

Blue: major/minor

Students will explore the above elements through a variety of applied skills they will acquire throughout the year. All grade levels will learn about vocal health and sing in a variety of moods and styles. All students will also explore body percussion and movement as ways of expressing and embodying the music they are listening to or producing. All grade levels will use non-pitched percussion (hand drums, tambourines, etc.) to produce their own accompaniment. Keyboard instruments will be introduced in Green Room as the students are learning the names of pitches and how to read written music. Green Roomers, Turquoise Roomers, and sometimes Blue Roomers will use recorders as a vehicle for learning how to read music and improvise during the Spring semester. Students of all ages will be coached on how to analyze, perform, and compose music on a developmentally appropriate scale. All students will listen to and analyze many genres of music or large works of music for various qualities.