

## MUSIC

According to the National Standards for Arts Education: "The study of music contributes in important ways to the quality of every student's life. Through singing, playing instruments, and composing, students can express themselves creatively, while knowledge of notation and performance traditions enables them to learn new music independently throughout their lives. Skills in analysis, evaluation, and synthesis are important because they enable students to recognize and pursue excellence in their musical experiences. Because music is an integral part of human history, the ability to listen with understanding is essential if students are to gain a broad cultural and historical perspective. The adult life of every student is enriched by the skills, knowledge, and habits acquired in the study of music." (Music Educator's National Conference, 1996)

Students in the Nichols Middle School Music program will have the opportunity to explore, create, research, analyze, and listen to a wide range of music. A hands-on approach is stressed, utilizing traditional instruments as well as computer music technology.

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### **Chorus Grades 6, 7, 8**

Chorus is open to all students interested in singing. The class focus is on ensemble and part-singing, sight singing, and proper vocal technique. Chorus meets during a regularly scheduled class every third day for a full year. The Chorus performs in at least two formal evening concerts. Participation in these performances is required. Grades will be given according to musical achievement and growth, positive class participation, quizzes, tests, and concert attendance. Proper behavior is mandatory because of the unusually large number of students in each individual Chorus class.

### **After School Ensembles**

There may be an opportunity for Performance Ensemble members to play in small ensembles such as Jazz Band, Flute Choir, Woodwind Ensemble, Brass Choir, String Quartet, and Vocal Quartet. These groups will meet after school.

## **Music Grade 6**

The large theme unit for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music is “The Classics”. Through performance and critical listening, students will experience the art music of past masters.

Students will compose, critique, and refine their own musical product through the practical use of computer music technology. Assessment will be done by numerous methods including quizzes, projects, group performance, class discussion, composition, self-assessment, and writing assignments. Students will be provided exemplars and expectations for each unit.

## **Music Grade 7**

The large theme unit for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Music is “Music from Around the World.” Through performance and critical listening, students will experience the music of other cultures and make a deeper connection with music as a global language.

Students will compose, critique, and refine their own musical product through the practical use of computer music technology. Assessment will be done by numerous methods including quizzes, projects, group performance, class discussion, composition, self-assessment, and writing assignments. Students will be provided exemplars and expectations for each unit.

## **Music Grade 8**

The large theme for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Music is “America’s Music.” Students will explore musical forms that originated or developed primarily in the United States including the Blues, Folk and Country music, Jazz, Broadway musicals, and Rock’n Roll.

Students will compose, critique, and refine their own musical product through the practical use of computer music technology. Assessment will be done by numerous methods including quizzes, projects, group performance, class discussion, composition, self-assessment, and writing assignments.

## **Performance Ensembles**

### **Band - Grades 6, 7, 8**

Band is open to all students who play a brass, wind or percussion instrument. Students at the Nichols do not have group lessons. They meet in a regularly scheduled class every third day for a full year. The Band functions as both a concert and marching group, performing in at least two formal evening concerts and three parades. Participation is required in all events. Students must have an instrument available to practice on outside of school. Home practice is required. Grades will be given according to musical achievement and growth, positive class participation, quizzes, tests, home practice, concert and parade attendance. Proper behavior is mandatory because of the unusually large number of students in each individual Band class. Private lesson study is strongly encouraged for all Band members. Grade 7 and Grade 8 Band members have the opportunity to audition for regional festivals (SEMSBA, S.E. District).

### **Orchestra Grades 6, 7, 8**

Orchestra is open to all students who play violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Students at the Nichols no longer have group lessons. They meet in a regularly scheduled class every third day for a full year. The Orchestra performs in at least two formal evening concerts. Participation in these performances is required. Students must have an instrument available to practice on outside of school. Home practice is required. Grades will be given according to musical achievement and growth, positive class participation, quizzes, tests, home practice, and concert attendance. Proper behavior is mandatory. Private lesson study is strongly encouraged for all Orchestra members. Grade 7 and Grade 8 Orchestra members have the opportunity to audition for regional festivals (SEMSBA, S.E. District).