

Kindergarten

Course Description: This course provides a first exposure to the organized study of music. The repertoire consists of carefully selected repertoire of folk music and traditional Christian music. Students learn performance skills through singing, moving, and playing instruments. Students develop critical thinking skills through beat and rhythm, pitch awareness, distinguishing different types of voices, reading and writing to express musical ideas, inner hearing, memorization, part work, ear training, and musical form. Students develop creativity through improvisation and composition. The student's listening skills are refined through thoughtful questioning.

Students explore musical concepts through kinesthetic, aural, and visual activities in an environment centered around singing and musical games. Teamwork, cooperation, attentiveness, and a joyful attitude are important parts of the learning process. Students completing the course will have developed a better ear for distinguishing sounds and an increased ability to sing tunefully.

Course Question: How can I make music?

First Grade

Course Description: This course continues the exploration of making music and beginning understanding of basic elements of rhythm and melody as elements that distinguish music from other aural experiences. Melodic contour, pitch awareness, and staff notation are covered. Students read, write, and perform rhythmic patterns containing quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. Students master musical concepts through kinesthetic, aural, and visual activities in an environment that is centered around singing and musical games. Upon completion the course, students will have developed a better ear for distinguishing sounds and have an increased ability to sing tunefully. The ultimate goal is for students to enjoy and skillfully participate in making music.

Course Question: What is music?

Second Grade

Course Description: This course expands the exploration of performance skills in singing, playing instruments, and movement. Melodic contour, pitch awareness, and staff notation are covered. Students read, write, and perform an increasing number of rhythmic elements. Students will sing in canon and simple two-part arrangements as they master musical concepts through kinesthetic, aural, and visual activities centered around singing and musical games. Students will grow in creativity through improvisation with known rhythmic and melodic elements. Upon completion of the course, students will have developed a better ear for distinguishing sounds and have an increased ability to sing tunefully, write music, and read music. The ultimate goal is for students to enjoy and skillfully participate in making music.

Course Question: What makes music beautiful?

Third Grade

Course Description: This course expands the exploration of performance skills in singing, playing instruments, and movement. Melodic contour, pitch awareness, and staff notation are covered. Students read, write, and perform an increasing number of rhythmic elements. Students will sing in canon and simple two-part arrangements as they master musical concepts through kinesthetic, aural, and visual activities centered around singing and musical games. Students will grow in social skills through performing group dances. Students will be introduced the tin whistle to reinforce previously learned melodic and rhythmic concepts. Upon completion of the course, students

will have developed a better ear for distinguishing sounds and have an increased ability to sing tunefully, write music, and read music. The ultimate goal is for students to enjoy and skillfully participate in making music.

Course Question: What makes music beautiful?

Fourth and Fifth Grade

Course Description: Students continue their exploration of performance skills in singing, playing instruments, and movement. Students begin a base knowledge in choral skills, practice reading and writing with traditional staff notation, utilizing solfege, and exploring creativity through performance venues. The class repertoire is centered around American folk music, Christian repertoire, patriotic songs, and seasonal songs. Students will perform a small selection of music for the Christmas program and the Spring Fine Arts night. Teamwork, cooperation, attentiveness, and a joyful attitude toward trying new things and having fun is an important part of the learning process.

Course Question: Why did God make music?

Sixth – Eighth Grade

Course Description: Vox Subito Choir exposes and explores the development of choral musicianship for the glory of God and the edification of man. Students will learn basic musical skills, vocal technique, and music theory to enrich their appreciation of God's gift of music. Students are exposed to a variety of genres. A special emphasis is placed on learning how to understand, express, and evaluate the quality (beauty, goodness, and truth) of hymns, praise music, folk music, and program music. Students will also explore how music is used to worship God. This is a performance directed ensemble, meaning that participation in scheduled performances is a required part of the course.

Course Question: What are the foundational elements of good choral singing that are to be consistently applied in our choral experiences for the glory of God?

Ninth – Twelfth Grade

Course Description: Vox Fortis Choir explores the development of choral musicianship for the glory of God and the edification of man. Students continue to utilize musicianship skills, vocal technique, and music theory developed in earlier grades. Music theory is reviewed and expanded upon. Students are exposed to a variety of genres. A special emphasis is placed on learning how to understand, express, and evaluate the quality (beauty, goodness, and truth) of hymns, praise music, folk music, and program music. Students will also explore how music is used to worship God. This is a performance directed ensemble, meaning that participation in scheduled performances is a required part of the course.

Course Question: Is there a kind of music that is proper for worship of God and stirring the soul? What makes music edifying and beautiful?

Orchestra

Course Description: FCA's orchestra, Camerata Oriens, is an ensemble in which students experience the beauty of instrumental music and prepare to share it with others. Students develop performance skills on their instruments as they learn new concepts in music theory, including key signatures, scales, rhythms, and expression. Through this instruction, students gain an appreciation for the important role of music in the quadrivium of the liberal arts and in the order of creation. Students will have a variety of performance opportunities including the Christmas program, Spring Fine Arts Night, the Midwest Christian Schools Festival, and school chapels. Teamwork, at-home practice, cooperation, attentiveness, and a joyful attitude toward trying new things are crucial to the learning process and the success of the ensemble. (Audition required.)

Course Question: How is the beauty of music dependent on order?