3rd – 10th Grade Music!

Katie E. Schmelzer, Music Education Teacher
katieschmelzer@rencharter.org

**Music Education Overview**
The goal of the TRCS general music program is to develop students’ appreciation of music in all styles, build rhythmic, instrumental, and singing skills through a variety of activities, and to prepare students to rehearse and perform with professionalism.

**Music Classroom Expectations**
In the music room, we...
...celebrate and respect our diversity.
...use our voices and make smart choices.
...learn with courage, honesty, and love.
...work together for justice.
...use music to change the world!

---

**Curriculum Outline for 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grades**

Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades will focus on a variety of activities throughout the year that build on existing skills and develop new musical skills. More specifically, students will participate in the following:

- **Value Chants**: Aligns with classroom and/or school values; students should be able to recite chant in unison, with student leader(s) and rhythmic accuracy.
- **Rhythm Time**: Introduces and/or reviews rhythm & theory concepts, followed by partner work to introduce, review, and discuss rhythm patterns and/or music theory concepts.
- **Enunciation/Facial Expression**: Activity to warm up students for singing; emphasis is placed on communicating correctly with words and/or expression.
- **Solfege Practice**: Warm-ups to guide students through unison or multiple-part singing, using voices and proper hand movements.
- **Singing and/or Instrument Practice**: Students will be coached through any of the following: music reading paired with singing, music reading paired with instruments, rhythm work, or composition. Activities will vary based on unit goals, upcoming performance, or assessments.
- **Recorder**: Students will begin/continue instrumental skills, utilizing several different curriculum materials.

**Curriculum Outline for 6th, 7th, & 8th Grades**

Students in 6th, 7th, & 8th grades will participate in a survey courses, each a trimester long, that build on existing skills and develop new musical skills. More specifically, students will participate in the following:

- **Music Theory**: Introduces and/or reviews rhythm & theory concepts.
- **Singing Activities**: Students will be coached in basic singing techniques choral singing.
- **Small Group Piano Lessons**: Students participate in an introductory course in piano, which will help prepare them for further piano instruction and/or other instrument practice.
- **Composition/Music Technology**: Students will compose short pieces of music using learned music theory concepts and simple rhythms. Students who meet classroom expectations will be allowed to utilize music technology programs such as GarageBand for advanced composition opportunities.
Curriculum Outline for 9th & 10th Grades

Students in grade 9 that choose music as their major, as well as students in grade 10 who are continuing with music as their arts major, will participate in the following:

- **Music Theory**: Introduces and/or reviews rhythm & theory concepts.
- **Singing Activities**: Students will be coached in basic singing technique and unison choral singing.
- **Small Group Piano Lessons**: Students will participate in an introductory course in piano, which will help prepare them for further piano instruction and/or other instrument practice.
- **Instrument Practice**: Students will survey ukulele, drums, and guitar. Students will have the opportunity later in the year to choose one of these (or piano) to study further.
- **Composition/Music Technology**: Students will compose short pieces of music using learned music theory concepts and simple rhythms. Students who meet classroom expectations will be allowed to utilize music technology programs such as GarageBand for advanced composition opportunities.
- **Music History and/or Music Business Projects**: Students will work in small groups to develop a proposal, research a topic of their choice, and present to the class.

Careers in Music Business

This year, one of the High School Leadership Programs will be Careers in Music Business, meeting with on Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00pm. Careers in Music, Theater, and Arts Business provides a deeper understanding of working in the music, theater, or creative performance industry. Throughout this program, students will explore careers and pathways into the arts, by visiting studios, performance venues, and other creative spaces throughout the city. Students will also meet a number of professionals working as performers, technicians, producers, administrators, and, yes, DJs. ;)

This program will be treated much like a college freshman level course: students are expected to engage thoughtfully in discussion and participation (both during class and in the online forum), practice proper audience etiquette, and, if applicable, perform in one’s art of choice. A final project/performance to illustrate one’s learning will be expected.