

3rd – 9th Grade Music!

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

Music Education Overview

The goal of the RCS 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, & 6th Grade

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 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.

*Students in grades 3-5 will participate in recorder (see below), students in grade 6 will survey piano, drums, ukulele throughout the year.

Recorder Information (3rd-5th ONLY)

- Students will receive recorder materials in late October. (\$3 of classroom dues was used for these materials.)
- Recorders will be kept for classroom use only, until later in the year when several songs have been mastered, and students have learned to care for and respect the instrument.
- Students will use a combination of the Carnegie Hall Link Up Curriculum (information available on Carnegie Hall's website) and Recorder Karate to learn and prepare a variety of songs.
- **5th Grade Only:** In May, students will take a field trip to Carnegie Hall to perform rehearsed Link Up repertoire with other students across NYC and the NYC Philharmonic.

Curriculum Outline for 7th Grade

Students in grade 7 will participate in a survey course of approximately **20 music lessons**, where they will participate in short surveys of 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.
- **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.

At the conclusion of the arts rotation (ending at the end of April), students will choose a major for their 8th grade year. The arts rotation includes visual art (Robert Evangelista) and theater (Rebekah Slotnick)

Curriculum Outline for 8th Grade

Students in grade 8 will participate in a yearlong music course, which will aim to build new skills and/or expand and further develop existing skills. Students 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.

Curriculum Outline for 9th Grade

Students in grade 9 will participate in a survey course of **four music lessons**. At the conclusion, students will choose a major (visual art, music, or theater). Students who choose music 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.