

**Breakwater School**  
**K-5 Music Curriculum Overview**  
**May 10, 2006**

Music, a language unto itself, is one of the first ways children can capture the stories, sound, culture, and emotion from the largely diverse world we live in. Our music program provides students with the knowledge, skills and nurturing environment they need to really appreciate what a special place the world of music is.

Our music classes create a musical world of discovery: enlightenment through listening, movement, and song, and a mutual sharing of the knowledge from teacher to student, student to teacher, and student to student. By being exposed to all that music has to offer, from classical to the blues, song to dance, and strings to percussion, all students have the opportunity to find the best place for music to fit into their lives.

Music will be integrated into the general curriculum as much as possible so students gain a richer understanding of all the concepts they are expected to learn.

Every student at Breakwater School will participate in two productions. The first performance takes place in the fall and is a culminating activity for our Multicultural Week. Every student will be involved in songs, dances, and storytelling that is native to the country they will be studying. The second performance takes place in the spring where each grade level will study a different music genre. While studying the history, instruments, performers, and sound of their genre, students gain a grander understanding of the various ways music can be part of peoples lives. They will then perform what they've learned for the Breakwater community.

### **Pre-school**

So much knowledge comes naturally in music through music play, dance and fun. Young children are so innately curious so music class will be largely a discovery of song, of the way our bodies move, and of how we appreciate different types of sound. Music class will be a safe environment full of excitement, exploration, understanding, and (most importantly) fun. The songs children learn will not only be following the Pre-school curriculum, they will be songs from all over the world, songs children can move to, and also familiar well-loved children's songs. Music class for Pre-schoolers is designed to help children gain confidence, understanding, and knowledge about the music world.

## **Kindergarten**

Music at the Kindergarten level is not only exciting and fun, it is a time for us to begin grasping “big picture” music concepts. Students will, through games, songs, storytelling, and dance, begin to understand the fundamentals of music. Giving Kindergartners the gift of understanding melody and rhythm will help them to develop a greater appreciation of music and will lead to further discovery and curiosity of all musical ideas. Kindergarten children will explore music from all over the world, hear and sing music from different musical genres and gain confidence by performing in the two Breakwater music productions during the school year.

## **First and Second Grades**

First and Second Graders will expand their musical knowledge base and delve deeper into the ‘why, where and how come’ of music. Students will get a broader understanding of what makes music “tick.” They will begin to learn ‘fancy’ musical terms that real musicians use to mark their compositions and begin to breathe life into simple melodies and rhythms. They will begin to look at music visually and learn how to read and eventually write it. We will explore a variety of musical instruments in order to take what’s on paper and make it sing! Students will receive an introduction to a variety of musical instruments, with emphasis on the piano. They will explore music from around the globe and perform in our productions, where they will be able to show their songs and dances to the greater Breakwater Community.

## **Third and Fourth Grades**

Third and Fourth Graders are ready now to start developing their individuality in music. There will be:

- Listeners
- Observers
- Composers
- Percussionists
- Singers
- Dancers

It is our hope to create a classroom environment where students can equally share these roles in order to create a safe community where everyone feels a part of our musical playground. We will expand on our musical knowledge and then begin creating and discovering. We will work with computer programs that will help students compose their own pieces, make mastering music theory fun through games, and give another outlet for students to express themselves: through music. Students will then learn to bring life to their compositions by selecting ensembles of students to learn, practice, perform and critique their work. Looking also at music history, music from other cultures, and music professions, students will begin to see the role music plays in our world and will begin to discover their own distinct and important roles. Students will review their knowledge of a variety of musical instruments, with emphasis on the piano. They will explore music from around the globe and perform in our productions, where they will be able to show their songs and dances to the greater Breakwater Community

## **Fifth Grade**

Fifth Grade is the ultimate Breakwater musical experience! We take all the knowledge we have of music, push it, pull it, and mold it into what we imagine music to look like, then create from it

- Listeners
- Observers
- Composers
- Instrumentalists
- Singers
- Thespians
- Dancers
- Music critics

We create and discover together a world of music that only comes with a solid foundation. We explore music across the globe, play with as many different instruments as we can get our hands on (and play them together!), and experiment with vocal harmonies, ensembles, and choreography. Students will be able to play and discover the piano, percussion instruments and the guitar. They will use technology to explore music theory, composition, listen to and sing music from around the globe, perform for each other and for the greater community as they dive head-first into an exciting exploration of a diverse and exciting world. They will then perform in our productions where they will be able to show their songs and dances to the greater Breakwater Community.

When Fifth Graders enter the auditorium for music class, they will play and dream in a world they have created where anything is possible and every idea is valued.