

St. Monica School, Methuen
2017-2018 Music Curriculum (Preliminary)
Susan K. Navien, Music Teacher
Email contact: StMonica.music.teacher@gmail.com

Recognizing that our voices are our primary instruments and a true gift from God, students in all grades learn and regularly review a variety of appropriate songs, hymns, carols, and chants, including Patriotic, seasonal, liturgical, popular, secular, and sacred. Activities include singing, body percussion and playing classroom rhythm instruments, creative movement and folk dancing, learning music notation, and improvisation. Students listen to and explore different composers and genres of classical, traditional, and popular music.

Each month, students participate in the school liturgies, either on First Fridays or Holy Days as scheduled.

All grades perform during a Christmas and a Spring concert.

Supporting Curricula:

Music and You (Macmillan) Grades 1-8

"Be a Recorder Star!" (Macie) Grades 3-4

"Classical Kids" (BMG Kidz) Grade 6-8

Specifics:

PreSchool - K

Students are introduced to various musical concepts through nursery rhymes, singing games, chants and movement activities. Beat, rhythm, pitch and melody, musical symbols, singing solo and in a group, and memorization of lyrics and action sequences are introduced.

Primary (Grades 1-2)

Students learn and respond to basic music notation both vocally and on classroom instruments, and learn to identify the different types of musical instruments. Good singing habits, cooperation and respect are emphasized.

Grades 3-4

Beginning in Grade 3, students apply their musical knowledge to learning to play the Baroque soprano recorder. Using Be A Recorder Star (Macie Publishing Co.), students earn white, blue, and gold neck straps as they progress from "Hot Cross Buns" (White) through "Jingle Bells" (plus a written test on music notation, for the Blue ribbon) to "Morning Has Broken" (plus a written report on a famous composer, for the Gold.) The goal is to play at school and parish concerts and liturgies, with additional songs and hymns as appropriate. Good posture, tone production, and musical sensitivity are encouraged in addition to accuracy and dexterity.

Grade 5

Students strengthen their knowledge of a broad range of American musical styles, while identifying and exploring the mechanics of notation and performance. Continued performance on the recorder may be included, with more advanced difficulty and expression.

Grades 6, 7, and 8

Students explore the specific composers and historic eras presented in the "Classical Kids" series of audio plays: Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and Beethoven. Activities include discussion and

dramatization as well as continued identification of historic and contrasting contemporary musical instruments and styles. Relationships to architecture and other visual arts are included, in a Humanities-based context.

Chorus

Open to all interested students in Grades 2+, the St. Monica School Chorus meets once a week and concentrates on improved vocal development. The chorus comprises the Choir for School Liturgies each month, and performs at the Christmas and Spring concerts, plus at other occasions as opportunities arise. Membership is voluntary and not based on audition, but consistent attendance and appropriate behavior are necessary.