

St. Louis School Curricular Instrumental Music and Ensemble Course Syllabus 2016-2017

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Music ensembles—Band, Marimba, Glee Club, and Orchestra— and instrumental lessons are classes that are part of the St. Louis School curricular music program. Ensembles occur outside the school day for scheduling purposes, but are not clubs or enrichment. Parents are required to provide transportation for their child. Weekly attendance is required. Students are expected to attend all performances, some of which will be outside of the regular school day. Families who do not meet these expectations will be asked to reconsider participation.

Band – Grades 4 – 5



Monday Mornings, 8:00 a.m.

- Woodwind, brass, and percussion students from grade 4-5; guitar students seeking to expand their performance opportunities; select piano students
- Focusing on performing music from a variety of genres, we will prepare to enhance school gatherings such as Masses, prayer services, and other seasonal events.
- Families who take advantage of the instrumental music lessons are agreeing to eventual participation in band. Likewise, if you are in band, you are expected to be taking advantage of lessons within school or with a private lesson teacher.
- *Mid-October start (once enrollment is complete an email will be sent out)*

Marimba Ensemble – Grades 3 – 5



limit 35

Tuesday Mornings, 8:00 a.m.

- Focusing on marimba music, participants would take turns playing bass, alto and soprano wooden xylophones, concert marimba and xylophones, various drums, small percussion and other appropriate instruments
- Participants are chosen from interested students at the discretion of the teacher using the criteria below. Older students are given priority as it would be their last opportunity to join.
- *An email will be sent out with a roster of accepted students and a date for when course will begin.*

Individual Skills Required	Ensemble Skills Required	Musical Skills desired, but not necessary
Self-control Organization Positive attitude Individual preparation Dedication Perseverance Focused attention Cooperation	Ability to interact with children of many ages and varying ability levels with good manners and respect. Ability to perform individual parts while listening to 5-8 different parts that fit together to make a whole. Willingness to focus on the success of the ensemble.	Ability to read standard musical notation on the treble clef. Keyboard and/or percussion performance experience.

Instrumental Lessons – Grades 4-5

Mondays/Fridays – during school day



- Each week, each student enrolled in Band and Full Orchestra will be scheduled for a small group lesson on his or her instrument. Lessons are where a great deal of knowledge and technique are learned, and they are a required part of the experience.
- Lessons will be on Mondays and Fridays and will rotate throughout the day's instrumental lesson slots. There will be work happening in the classrooms during lessons, and students are expected to make up any missed work from their regularly scheduled classes.

Glee Club – Grades 4 – 5

limit 40

Thursday Mornings, 8:00 a.m.



- Focusing on bright arrangements and part-singing of a variety of contemporary music, from show tunes and jazz standards to pop stylings.
- No prior experience is required. Ability to read standard musical notation, ability to sing in harmony, as well as accompaniment skills will be developed.
- *Late-September start (once enrollment is complete an email will be sent out)*

Orchestra

Friday Mornings, 8:00 a.m.



- String students in grade 2-5 who are ready for a group experience; select percussion students from grade 4-5; guitar students seeking to expand their performance opportunities; select piano students
- Focusing on performing music from a variety of genres, we will prepare to enhance school gatherings such as Masses, prayer services, and other seasonal events.
- Families who take advantage of the instrumental music lessons are agreeing to eventual participation in full orchestra. Likewise, if you are in orchestra, you are expected to be taking advantage of lessons within school or with a private lesson teacher.
- *Mid-October start (once enrollment is complete an email will be sent out)*

Ensemble Attire:

When we perform as part of Masses and school-wide prayer services, we will be dressed in our school uniforms. As the year continues, Band, the Marimba Ensemble, Glee Club, and Orchestra may adopt “concert dress”. **All costuming and dress will be in keeping with our Catholic School tradition.**

Please return the following form to Mrs. Gowman, indicating your child's interest in a specific music ensemble. An email will be sent to confirm participation in each group.

Child's name: _____ Child's teacher: _____ Date: _____

My child is interested in: (check all that apply)

- Band (Grades 4-5)
- Marimba and Drumming (Grades 3-5)
- Glee Club (Grades 4-5)
- Orchestra (Grades 4-5 + younger children taking lessons outside of school)

Parents' names: _____

Email address(es) for contact: _____

Music Ensemble Participation Contract

Student Name: _____

Current Classroom Teacher: _____



I am a member of: (check all that apply)

Band

Marimba and Drumming

Glee Club

Orchestra

While participating in any of these music ensembles, I can expect to develop and improve upon the following musical skills:

- Ability to listen for and produce good tone.
- An understanding of melody, harmony and accompaniment as it pertains to the piece being performed.
- Ability to read standard musical notation for pitch and rhythm.
- Ability to perform with technical accuracy pitches, rhythms, and expressive elements as they are heard or notated.
- Ability to perform with expression as it pertains to the history, culture, and time period from which the piece came.

By signing this sheet you are saying that you have read, talked about, and understand the following expectations:

Family Expectations	Individual Skills Required	Ensemble Skills Required
<p>Musical ensembles are classes that occur outside the school day.</p> <p>Parents are required to provide transportation to morning rehearsals.</p> <p>Weekly attendance is required.</p> <p>Students are expected to attend all performances, some of which will be outside of the regular school day.</p>	<p>Self-control, focused attention</p> <p>Individual preparation</p> <p>Positive attitude, perseverance</p> <p>Desire to improve</p> <p>Organization</p> <p>Dedication</p> <p>Cooperation</p>	<p>Ability to interact with children of varied ages and varying ability levels with good manners and respect.</p> <p>Ability to perform individual parts while listening to parts performed on other instruments or voices that fit together to make a whole.</p> <p>Willingness to focus on the success of the ensemble.</p>

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Parent email address (for contact regarding upcoming events, etc.): _____

Space in each ensemble is limited. Participation in music ensembles is at the discretion of the teacher based on observations of the readiness skills and expectations listed above. Please note that there is an Enrichment Program available after school for a nominal fee. This is an enrichment program and not part of the St. Louis School regular music curriculum.