

J.E. Cosgriff School

Mr. Zach Downes

Eighth Grade Music Curriculum

My curriculum will sequence music skill and objectives that support the National Standards for Arts Education, which in turn influenced the Utah State Music Core, as well as that of our Diocese.

Objectives are organized into five conceptual areas: rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and timbre.

Students approach objectives through a variety of experiences: moving, speaking, singing, listening, playing, reading, and notating.

Lessons unfold through different states of learning: imitation, exploration, improvisation, and visualization.

Objectives are presented through different stages of teaching: introduction, reinforcement, and assessment.

Students will play mallet instruments, including glockenspiels, metallophones, and xylophones. The unpitched instruments include woods (wood blocks, claves, maracas, cabasa, guiros, temple blocks, vibraslap, ratchet, castanets, piccolo blocks, rain sticks and log drums), metals (tambourines, triangles, finger cymbals, cowbells, jingle bells, sleigh bells, agogo bells, flex-a-tone, suspended cymbal, wind chimes, and gong), and skins (hand drums, conga drums/ tubanos, bongo drums, djembe, snare drum and bass drum). We also have 40 brand new ukuleles the 8th graders will be playing extensively.

We begin the year using our text THE MUSIC CONNECTION, a series comprised of an extensive library of songs and listening selections, state of the art recordings, and the resources necessary for its implementation. In unit 1, we review the foundations of music theory and performance. We study rhythm, harmony, form, and tone color. Our 2nd unit is Ukulele Basics. The students will practice playing, tuning, singing with and performing on the brand new ukuleles. Our 3rd unit, Bucket Drumming, is a deep dive into complex rhythms and ensemble playing. The students will perform during the May Fine Arts Concert so please be sure your student can attend.