

Dear Lena Parents,

Now that our year is underway, if you are new to Lena (or not) I would like to share a brief overview of what music will be like at Lena for your child.

By the end of 5th grade I want students to have built a foundation of basic skills and to have mastered certain skills/concepts that will allow them to use music in their everyday lives in whatever way they choose. Our curriculum is not based around public performances but all students do perform in an all-school Winter Concert. This year it is December 13th at 6pm.

The curriculum is based on sequenced concepts and skills and if you have any questions regarding the sequencing or anything pertaining to the curriculum, please give me a call or email. I use the common “number” counting in all grade levels instead of the Kodaly duration syllables. Starting in 2nd grade I teach standard rhythm notation and starting in 3rd grade I teach staff reading (though we start with Major pitch identification in 2nd grade).

I stress singing because it is an instrument that everyone has and it is an extremely personal instrument and I would like everyone to become comfortable with their voice. I think solfege (which is the “Do, Re, Mi...”) is the best tool to achieve melodic literacy.

We are very lucky at this school to have an incredible room, instruments and support from the staff, Mrs. McMillan and parents. Besides voice, the main instruments used are percussion (pitched and un-pitched) K – 3rd grade, 4th grade the same plus recorders and 5th grade percussion plus keyboards and ukuleles. We are extremely fortunate to have iPads to use to augment our music curriculum! But as always, music making is our main goal!

In K – 3rd grade we are building a common musical foundation and vocabulary. Students come to school with different musical experiences. Some have played the violin for a year and others have only heard music on the radio, TV or at the mall so it is important to build shared experiences.

In 4th – 5th grade, they will have occasional written homework along with in-class assessments.

You obviously know your child best so if there is a special need or concern they aren't able to communicate to me or an insight into their personality that would help them enjoy music class more, please let me know.

If you have any questions during the year, please, call or e-mail anytime. I look forward to another great year teaching your child(ren)!

Sincerely,

LaDene Edwards (W)882-2621 (C)208-964-9400
Music teacher e-mail: edwardsl@msd281.org