

(Classroom Page)

Music at Alameda Elementary School

Music is taught at all grade levels at Alameda (K-5). Kindergarten and 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades have music twice a week for one half hour each class. 1st and 2nd grades have half hour classes three times for every two weeks. The music teaching methods and curriculum and teaching methods are based on the philosophies of Zoltan Kodaly and others. The curriculum addresses the National and State standards for music. The Kodaly approach to teaching music uses materials and activities that are age appropriate. The Kodaly based curriculum builds upon the musical concepts learned in younger grades to develop understanding of more sophisticated concepts in upper grades. In this approach, children make music first, and then learn musical concepts based upon the music they know.

Kodaly's Philosophies:

1. Music education is necessary for the development of the total person.
2. Musical literacy is the right of every person, not just the musically gifted.
3. Because everyone has access to their voice, singing is the best tool for teaching music literacy
4. Children learn best by doing
5. Musical training will achieve the best results if it begins with the very young child.
6. Folk music and quality children's songs are the best for developing musical awareness. First, folk music of our country is used, and then we branch to include the music of other countries and cultures.
7. Only music of the highest quality should be used.
8. Only the best musician-teachers should teach children.

Musical Skills:

Singing, listening, inner hearing, memory, playing instruments, movement to music, improvising, composing, reading, writing, and conducting.

Musical Concepts:

Rhythm, melody, form, harmony, style, instruments and vocabulary.

To learn more about Kodaly go to the website of the Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE) at: <http://oake.org/>

The National Standards for music are:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
3. Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music with specific guidelines.
5. Reading and writing music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performance.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

(Schedule/Calendar)

Important dates:

Grandparents and Special Friends Day

Thursday, October 23

1st through 5th grades will perform in cafeteria.

(Education and background)

Tom Cheek, Educational and Performance History:

Education:

Kodaly level II certification 2008

Master of Arts in Teaching, George Fox University, with certification for Early Childhood and Elementary Levels, 2006

Bachelor of Music in Performance (Jazz Studies), Portland State University, 2005

Private Music Study: Flute with Dawn Weiss (Oregon Symphony), Maria Rectenwald. Clarinet with Susan Jones (Oregon Symphony), Stan Stanford (PSU). Saxophone with Bob Jones, Bob Newman, Scott Hall (PSU), Joe Wimmer. Arranging and Harmony with Bob Newman (Jazz Society of Oregon Grant). Jazz piano with Mary Field.

Performance: My professional musical performing began in 1978 with the KOAP (PBS) Studio Orchestra playing for radio and live TV. Since then I have performed with Motown groups The Temptations and The Four Tops, The Oregon Symphony, The Columbia Symphony, Lou Rawls, Natalie Cole, Steve Allen, Reggae group Third World, The Manhattan Transfer, Jazz saxophonist David Sandborn, Michael Feinstein, and many local groups including Nushooz, Billy Rancher, Thara Memory, Obo Addy, Calvin Walker and others. I also have led many groups including the Portland Saxophone Quartet and Akrowa (Caribbean Jazz).

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