

## **Music at Alameda Elementary School**

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Music is taught at all grade levels at Alameda (K-5). Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades have music twice a week for one half hour each class. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.