MUSIC FOR THE ELEMENTARY GRADES-PRIMARY 1 THROUGH GRADE 5

The Music program for Grades Primary 1 through Grade 5 is based on the Orff Schulwerk approach developed in Germany in the 1930's. Carl Orff felt that children needed to move, sing, play instruments and dramatize their musical experiences. He also believed that children should be involved in creating their own music and then performing it with a group. The Orff philosophy has spread throughout the United States and is a major influence in any Music program.

The movement section of the class includes moving in many different ways to many different kinds of music: medieval, renaissance, classical, international folk, blues, swing, jazz, marches, and rock and roll are featured. The elements of movement pioneered by Rudolph Laban are introduced so that the children experience: movement through space, movement with force and movement in time. The children share the movements they have created with the class, which is then tried by all. Patterns are then practiced in partner and small groups.

The singing section of class includes: school songs, songs in preparation for school events and songs from the Holt music text. As the children progress, round and two-part singing is introduced. It is also during this section that body percussion and dramatic expressions of the voice are covered.

The instrumental section of the class provides experience in playing the Orff instruments (metalophone/xylophone/glockenspiel), which are pitched. Tambourine, drums, triangle, maraca, cabassa, wood blocks, rhythm sticks and claves, are the un-pitched instruments. The children create their own tonal and rhythmic patterns. Eventually, these patterns are written down in order to introduce the eight, quarter, half and whole note. In Grades 3,4,5 the recorder is introduced to extend the student's knowledge of musical theory.

School events that we prepare for are: United Nations Day, Pep Rallies, The Santa Show, Fabulous Friday, Explore Nepal and the elementary musicals.