

# The Conservatory School

## 3-5 Music Essentials Curriculum

*Music is vital to every child's education for its inherent aesthetic, historical and cultural value. If music is an inseparable part of our culture, then it should be an inseparable part of our school life.*

*The Music Essential years at TCS provide each student with a solid foundation of musical skills centered on a rotation through a number of musical experiences. Students will become aware of how the different musical elements interact to create musical ideas and thoughts.*

*Families are required to attend a grade level Music Essentials lesson with their child for a minimum of one visit per year between October to April 1st, 2022. These visits help families see how their child is developing in their musical growth and how to support that growth at home.*

### Third Grade

In the third grade, students will begin their instrumental journey in band or orchestra. The students will be fitted with instruments that are suitable for them. Typically, third-grade music students meet three (3) times weekly for instruction. At TCS, we start with the following instruments for third-grade students.

**Band:** Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, and Trombone. **Orchestra:** Violin and Cello.

#### **MUSICIANSHIP**

Students will demonstrate the following concepts:

- Procedures for basic care and maintenance of the instrument
- Proper body posture
- Instrument playing position, hand position, and/or embouchure
- Characteristic tone
- Basic fingering

#### **RHYTHM AND DURATION**

- Students will read and perform on their instrument at or above the designated grade level:
- Quarter note; Two eighth notes; Quarter rest
- 2/4 meter; 3/4 meter and 4/4 meter

#### **PITCH**

Students will read, perform and identify:

- Note names
- Extended pentatonic melodies in G, D, Bb, and/or F.

#### **EXPRESSION/TEMPO/DYNAMICS**

Students will read, perform and identify:

- Basic articulation markings
- Basic tempo terminology
- Basic dynamics terminology

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### Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, students continue to develop and broaden their instrumental music education. At TCS band and orchestra, we transition students to more diverse instruments that are appropriate for them and fit the ensemble's needs. The following instruments are part of the fourth-grade band and orchestra programs.

**Band:** *Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion*

**Orchestra:** *Violin, viola, cello, and bass.*

Typically, fourth-grade music students meet four (4) times weekly for instruction.

#### **MUSICIANSHIP**

Students will demonstrate the following concepts:

- Procedures for basic care and maintenance of the instrument
- Proper body posture
- Instrument playing position, hand position, and/or embouchure
- Characteristic Tone
- Intermediate Fingering

#### **RHYTHM AND DURATION**

- Students will read and perform on their instrument at or above the designated grade level:
- Quarter note; Two eighth notes; Quarter rest
- Beat; the sound of the words; duple and triple beat
- 2/4 meter; 3/4 meter and 4/4 meter

#### **PITCH**

Students will read, perform and identify:

- Note names
- Accidentals
- Extended pentatonic melodies in G, D, Bb, and/or C.
- Melodies in Major and minor keys
- Basic key signatures

#### **EXPRESSION/TEMPO/DYNAMICS**

Students will read, perform and identify:

- Expanded articulation markings
- Expanded tempo terminology
- Expanded dynamics terminology

#### **PERFORMANCE APPLICATIONS**

Students will perform :

- Varied music repertoire with increasing expression and technical accuracy.
- Sight-reading aligned with fourth-grade concepts of pitch and duration, phrasing, articulation, and dynamics
- Balance and multi-part playing in an ensemble
- Talk about playing in orchestra and band.
- Demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette at live performances.

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### Fifth Grade

Fifth-grade students will expand their instrumental music education by performing increasingly challenging repertoire and developing extended techniques in their instruments. The Fifth-grade orchestra and band programs play a pivotal role in our students' musical development as they get ready to transition into middle school. Typically, fifth-grade music students meet five (5) times weekly for instruction.

#### **MUSICIANSHIP**

Students will demonstrate the following concepts:

- Procedures for basic care and maintenance of the instrument
- Proper body posture
- Instrument playing position, hand position, and/or embouchure
- Characteristic Tone
- More advanced fingering
- Shifting

#### **RHYTHM AND DURATION**

- Students will read and perform on their instrument at or above the designated grade level:
- Quarter note; Two eighth notes; Quarter rest; Eighth rest
- Beat; the sound of the words; duple and triple beat
- 2/4 meter; 3/4 meter and 4/4 meter

#### **PITCH**

Students will read, perform and identify:

- Note names
- Accidentals
- Melodies in Major and minor keys
- Chromatic Scales and exercises
- Basic key signatures (Major keys C, G, D, F, Bb & Eb)

#### **EXPRESSION/TEMPO/DYNAMICS**

Students will read, perform and identify:

- Expanded articulation markings
- Expanded tempo terminology
- Expanded dynamics terminology

#### **IMPROVISATION**

Echo and improvise simple rhythmic and melodic phrases.

#### **PERFORMANCE APPLICATIONS**

Students will perform :

- Varied music repertoire with increasing expression and technical accuracy.
- Sight-reading aligned with fifth-grade concepts of pitch and duration, phrasing, articulation, and dynamics
- Students will demonstrate appropriate rehearsal etiquette in a full band or orchestra.
- Demonstrate appropriate audience etiquette at live performances