



MUSIC AT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

The music curriculum at St. Joseph School has been designed to provide students the opportunity to explore and experience music in a way that feels most comfortable and natural for them.

The published music program we sometimes use in class is Silver Burdett's *Making Music*. It is supplemented at all grade levels with additional materials, including *Music Alive*, a monthly publication focusing on popular music and issues in today's music industry.

At each grade level, we explore the basic concepts of melody, rhythm, harmony, tone color, and form through songs and many hands-on activities. Students in all grades frequently create their own musical compositions using their voices and a variety of instruments, some of which they have made.

All students are learning to read music; in grades 2, 3, and 4, this skill is implemented by playing precorders and recorders. Other instruments frequently played in music class include Boomwhackers, a set of tuned percussion tubes enjoyed by all ages. In addition, students in grades 7 & 8 will take inspiration from such performances as *Stomp* and *Blue Man Group*, and will play some "recycled" percussion of their own. Using buckets as drums, they have opportunities to create new compositions while strengthening their rhythmic skills. Students who take instruments lessons outside of school are also encouraged to perform in class. We have many talented musicians at St. Joseph School!

We are inspired by listening to music from different time periods as well as different places around the world. We sing, play instruments, and dance. We take turns performing and learn to be a respectful audience, and we perform as a group and learn to work together. The overall goal of St. Joseph's music program is to encourage a lifelong love of music, and to have fun while achieving our goal.

