

BENEFITS OF ELEMENTARY MUSIC



- 1. Musical training helps develop language and reasoning:** Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.
- 2. A mastery of memorization:** Even when performing with sheet music, student musicians are constantly using their memory to perform. The skill of memorization can serve students well in education and beyond.
- 3. Students learn to improve their work:** Learning music promotes craftsmanship, and students learn to want to create good work instead of mediocre work. This desire can be applied to all subjects of study.
- 4. Increased coordination:** Students who practice with musical instruments can improve their hand-eye coordination. Just like playing sports, children can develop motor skills when playing music.
- 5. A sense of achievement:** Learning to play pieces of music on a new instrument can be a challenging, but achievable goal. Students who master even the smallest goal in music will be able to feel proud of their achievement.

Quarter One: Rhythm and Voice

SKILL	Steady Beat	Sustained Patterning	Pitch Matching	2 or 3 Part Harmony	Reading Notation	Movement
KINDERGARTEN	X		X		X	X
FIRST GRADE	X		X		X	X
SECOND GRADE	X	X	X	X	X	X
THIRD GRADE	X	X	X	X	X	X
FOURTH GRADE	X	X	X	X	X	X
FIFTH GRADE	X	X	X	X	X	X

The skills identified in the chart are adapted for the developmental level of each grade. For example, the skill of keeping a steady beat is essential. In Kindergarten students begin with whole body movement to beat. By Fifth grade, students keep a steady beat through complex patterns that are shown through feet and hand movement that involves anywhere from three to five parts in performance. Cooperative work changes with different grade levels as students are able to perform two or three patterns both simultaneously and independently.