

# General Music Curriculum

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) pre-K-12 general music curriculum is designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills essential to understanding the following:

- Creating, performing, and responding to music requires specific knowledge and skills that may be acquired only through study and practice.
- Music, a distinct art form, shares many principles and concepts with theatre, visual arts, and dance.
- A thorough understanding of music requires knowledge drawn from disciplines including anatomy, physics, and computer science.
- Music is found in every culture, and musical ability is found in every individual.

## **Kindergarten**

### *Create Music*

- Experiment with various instruments and other sound sources
- Create short pieces of music, using voices, instruments, and other sound sources.

### *Perform*

- Use their voices expressively as they speak, chant, and sing.
- Play simple melodies and accompaniments on instruments.

### *Respond*

- Respond through movement to express what they hear and feel in music representing various styles and genres.

## **First Grade**

### *Create Music*

- Improvise instrumental accompaniments to songs recorded selections, stories, and poems.
- Invent and use symbols to represent musical ideas.

### *Perform*

- Sing various songs alone and in a group.
- Play simple melodies and accompaniments on instruments.

### *Respond*

- Listen to and describe musical contrasts (high/low, loud/soft).
- Respond through movement to express what they hear and feel in music representing various styles and genres.

## **Second Grade**

### *Create Music*

- Create short pieces of music using voices, instruments and other sound sources.

### *Perform*

- Sing a variety of songs alone and in a group, becoming increasingly aware of pitch and rhythm.
- Play simple melodies and accompaniments on instruments.
- Perform sequences of movement in singing games.

### *Respond*

- Identify classroom and orchestral instruments by sight and sound.
- Read simple pitch patterns and musical symbols.
- Listen to and describe music contrasts (loud/soft; high/low; fast/slow) using music terminology.

### **Third Grade**

#### *Create Music*

- Improvise simple melodies using the voice and on instruments
- Create simple melodies and rhythmic patterns within specified guidelines.

#### *Perform*

- Sing a varied repertoire of songs, including two part rounds.
- Play simple melodies and accompaniments on instruments.
- Perform simple folk dances following the musical cues.

#### *Respond*

- Use music vocabulary to describe expressive qualities heard in music.
- Demonstrate awareness of meter by conducting in a meter of two.
- Identify meter in written musical example

### **Fourth Grade**

#### *Create Music*

- Improvise rhythmic and melodic patterns in response to a musical prompt.
- Compose anecdote music within specified guidelines.

#### *Perform*

- Sing a varied repertoire, including three-part rounds, with an expanded range.
- Perform simple rhythmic and melodic patterns, sequences, and accompaniments.

#### *Respond*

- Identify characteristics of music related to historical style and culture.
- Create appropriate movement to demonstrate musical characteristics.
- Read and notate short melodic and rhythmic patterns using standard notation.

### **Fifth Grade**

#### *Create Music*

- Improvise rhythmic and melodic patterns in response to a musical prompt.
- Compose anecdote music within specified guidelines

#### *Perform*

- Sing a varied repertoire, including three-part rounds, with an expanded range.
- Perform simple rhythmic and melodic patterns, sequences, and accompaniments.

#### *Respond*

- Use appropriate music vocabulary to identify characteristics of music related to historical style and culture.
- Categorize orchestral and world instruments by sight and sound.
- Read and notate simple rhythmic and melodic patterns using standard music notation.

## **Choral Music**

Chorus is offered to students in Grades 4 and 5 who want to sing and develop their individual and ensemble vocal skills. The choral repertoire includes songs from various styles and genres. Public performances are the culmination of many hours of hard work and help students master the following knowledge and skills:

- Sing independently, on pitch and in rhythm, with appropriate diction and posture.
- Perform music in various textures, including unison, partner songs, and two-part harmony.