

ST. STEPHEN'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: MUSIC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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Not only is music art, but music is one of the ways that we can find beauty and joy in the world. It's a way that we can see the world differently and grow. Through music we can experience culture, life and learn about history. For students, music class is a chance to create, and express themselves in a way that isn't always available to them in their homeroom classrooms! Music also creates the opportunity to create a sense of community within the school.

Music engages student's entire being. It engages their mind, body and their emotions all at once, all in one experience. Music has been linked to cognitive development in creativity, spatial reasoning, generalized math skills and to multiple systems including emotional, perceptual, motor, stress and immune response, attention and memory.

The voice and the body (body percussion) are our most used methods of learning in the music room. Musical concepts learned through singing and body percussion are internalized and can also be applied to instrumental learning. Traditional children's songs and selections from contemporary and classical music, make up the majority of our learning materials, that being said we will be exploring music from other cultures with a focus on Gaelic, Mi'kmaw and Black (African as well as black American/Canadian) cultures. In music class, musical concepts will be reinforced through visual cues, singing, movement and the playing of classroom instruments.

Assessment in the music classroom is always happening through observation and includes informal assessment during hands-on activities, music creation, small group work, presentations, classroom discussion, reflections and playing of instruments.

There are 6 general outcomes for Music Education in Nova Scotia elementary schools, and they are the same for each grade each year. Each grade builds upon the previous classroom experiences, as students are able to comprehend and explore music in more detail each year. For instance if we are working through the rhythm-based outcome, Grade 1's will be doing a more difficult rhythm than the Primary classes!

The outcomes are outlined below:

Outcomes 1-5:

Using voice, movement, and instruments to express feelings, ideas, and understandings, students will perform, listen to, create, and reflect on: 1. Rhythm, Meter and Tempo 2. Melody and Pitch 3. Texture and Harmony 4. Form 5. Elements of Musical Expression.

Outcome 6:

Students will explore and reflect on a range of music from diverse cultures and communities, including Acadians, African Nova Scotians, Gaels, and Mi'kmaq, with respect and sensitivity.