

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School



Music Program for Grades 1-6

Russell Leon Hersen

Curriculum Night 2020

The students at JICS focus on a whole body approach to understand music. Movement and music makes for a deeper understanding of music principals such as rhythm, pitch, melody, dynamics...more by better connecting the brain to the body. This year due to Corona virus restrictions from Public Health our focus cannot be on singing. Instead we will spend more time learning to play many different types of percussion instruments, as well as learning ukulele, drums and xylophone. The students will continue to learn how to carefully listen to different styles of music from around the world, and identify instruments, rhythms, scales as well as discuss the history and social context relating to different music. Students will also focus on learning to read and write music. Each student in the school has a personal manuscript book with both staff paper and lined paper that they will use all year. Learning to notate music combined with a full body movement approach is essential to understanding music at a deeper level. Once basic rhythms and pitches are learned, the students will be able to start composing, then song writing. I will still be able to sing and perform live for the students from my studio. I will also be giving some songs and exercises for students to work on at home and invite everyone to encourage singing at home.

I will be teaching remotely over zoom out of my home studio, occasionally teaching outdoor socially distanced classes, weather and outdoor space permitting. I have found that teaching out of my studio works very well. I have access to a huge music library, many instruments and technology at my fingertips. Lessons integrate live performance, video/audio examples, I am also working with music software such as Logic Pro X, Incredibox, Chrome music lab, Ear Master Pro and Smart board technology.

I have been teaching at JICS for 21 years and although this year is very different from every other year, I look forward to making music with your children and helping them grow as musicians.