

# **West Des Moines Community School District Elementary General Music Information**

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## **Elementary Music Philosophy**

Music is an integral part of human life. All children have a right to and can benefit from music education. This education includes the study of the language of music, both aural and visual. Skills and concepts are mastered through a developmentally appropriate and sequential process. Active involvement and diversified levels of participation in the musical arts also builds life-long skills such as self-confidence, cooperation, higher level thinking skills, self-discipline, and appreciation of the aesthetics of music. Through the study of music, the students will develop an awareness and respect for cultural diversities and traditions of the global community. The existence of quality music education establishes a solid and permanent relationship with the musical arts as consumers, performers, and creators.

## **Standards**

The Consortium of National Arts Education Association developed the National Standards for Arts Education (What Every Young American Should Know and Be Able to Do in the Arts). These were published by The National Association for Music Education (Reston, VA, 1994). The Music Content Standards are divided into grade level categories: K-4; 5-8; and 9-12. Included with each Music Content Standard are numerous Achievement Standards that describe specific musical tasks with guidelines for competency. In our West Des Moines General Music Curriculum, we have combined those nine standards into four main standards for music learning. The West Des Moines and related National Standards are listed below:

### **WDM Content Standards Music K-6**

#### **WDM STANDARD I: Students will perform music alone and with others.**

- National Standard:
- #1 Sing a varied repertoire alone and with others
  - #2 Performing on instruments alone and with others
  - #3 Improvisation
  - #7 Evaluation

**WDM STANDARD II: Students will read and write music.**

- National Standard: #4 Composition and arranging  
#5 Read and notate  
#7 Evaluation

**WDM STANDARD III: Students will listen and respond to a varied repertoire of music.**

- National Standard: #6 Listening to, analyzing, and describing music  
#8 Understand the relationship between music and other arts, disciplines  
#9 Understand music in relation to history and culture  
#7 Evaluation

**WDM STANDARD IV: Students will describe music as it relates to history, culture and diversity.**

- National Standard: #6 Listening to, analyzing, and describing music  
#8 Understand the relationship between music and other arts, disciplines  
#9 Understand music in relation to history and culture  
#7 Evaluation

Students in grades K-3 receive reports from music class over the WDM standards plus behavior standards at the end of second and third trimesters. Students in grades 4-6 receive reports from music class over the WDM standards plus behavior standards at the end of first and third trimesters.

**Overview of Program**

Students in the West Des Moines Community School District have general music instruction throughout their elementary education, kindergarten through sixth grade. Half-day kindergarteners have thirty minutes of music instruction each week, while all-day kindergarteners have

sixty minutes. Students in grades one through six have ninety minutes of music instruction per week.

Performing opportunities are available at each elementary school site. Upper grade students may choose to be involved in chorus. Schedules vary per building.

Additional opportunities are available for select sixth grade students in the form of honor chorus and honor handbells. Students are selected at individual schools for participation in the honor groups. The sixth grade honor concert is the second Tuesday in May in the Valley High School auditorium with the sixth grade honor band and honor orchestra.

General music class is a place where children learn to express themselves more completely. Studying music involves the integration of all the curricular subjects, reading and literature, mathematics, science, social studies, physical education, as well as social skills. Making music also engages all parts of the brain, enhancing total brain function and increased intelligence. Thank you for supporting music education!

For more details about your child’s music education, contact information is as follows.

Name	School(s)	Contact phone number(s)
Deb Augspurger	Fairmeadows	633-6523
Bill Bird	Western Hills/FM/Clive/LRC	633-5032
Ruth Dorr	Crestview	633-5724
Amy Hachmann	Jordan Creek	633-5206
Kate Hargrafen	Western Hills	633-5952
Nancy Hartsock	Westridge/Crestview	633-5412
Mary Kimpston	Westridge	633-5414
Brenda Kirschman	Clive	633-5824
Tracy Klein	Jordan Creek	633-5214
Angie Loney	Crossroads Park	633-5651
Abby Meyer Crisp	Crossroads/FM/Stilwell	633-5607
Donna Sullins	Hillside	633-6251
Rozlyn Wirtz	Phenix/Hillside	633-6614/6221