

What do Children learn in Music at The Falls Church Episcopal Day School??

Day School Music Program Objectives and Implementation Strategies

Objectives:

- To help children love music
- To expose children to a variety of musical styles and concepts
- To allow children to experience music with their whole bodies
- To introduce musical concepts in an age-appropriate manner: rhythm, meter, musical expression, tempo, tonality, texture, dynamics
- To experience the joy that comes from music generally, but the special spiritual joy that comes from communication to and about God through song

Implementation Strategies:

- Create a fun atmosphere while maintaining order and accomplishing teaching objectives – high energy, variety, movement, age-appropriate music selection
- Select songs across time periods, instrumentation, musical genres and moods – jazz, classical, spirituals, dances (ballet, waltz, samba, polka), folk songs, programmatic music, traditional children’s songs from many lands
- Take a kinesthetic approach to teaching music – full body movement whenever possible in ways that are consistent with the music, sometimes specific and modeled, other times free movement
- Use simple poems or chants, hand clapping, body tapping, rhythm sticks, shakers, scarves, drums, bells, wood blocks, tambourines and other hand-held instruments to help the children feel the rhythm or texture of the song, express the emotion of the piece, follow the tempo, imitate the dynamics, understand the story and make their own music
- Use repetition with variation to allow concepts to be learned without becoming stale or boring
- Listen to music to demonstrate ideas or concepts and to stimulate creative and critical thinking
- Talk through the spiritual concepts expressed in some songs, relating them back to biblical stories or teachings, connecting them to our lives through personal examples (theirs or the teacher’s)