

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

The ICCSD General Music Teachers are very pleased to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Elementary Music Program. In grades K-6, your child will participate in regularly scheduled music classes. General Music provides your child with a wide variety of musical experiences. Students will sing, dance, play instruments, listen, learn about a variety of music from our own and other cultures, and build a strong foundation for music literacy. We are proud that our school community understands the important role that music plays in your child's education. We look very forward to getting to know your child and will send you updates throughout the school year about what your child is learning in class. Below we list some of the current research regarding the value of music education.

1. Early musical training helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning.
2. Young children with developed rhythm skills perform better academically in early school years.
3. The eye-hand coordination needed for writing can be developed by learning to play an instrument.
4. There is a causal link between music and spatial intelligence (the ability to perceive the world accurately and to form mental pictures of things)
5. Music students learn to think creatively and to solve problems by imagining various solutions.
6. Music provides children with an internal glimpse of other cultures and teaches them to be empathetic towards the people of these cultures.
7. Music study enhances teamwork skills and discipline.
8. Music provides children with a means of self-expression.
9. Music performance teaches young people to conquer fear and to take risks.
10. Students in the arts are found to be more cooperative with teachers and peers, more self-confident and better able to express their ideas.

Be sure to check out the book [How to Develop Your Child's Musical Gifts and Talents](#) by Sandra Reid.

Sincerely yours,

General Music Teacher