MUSIC EXPLORERS (K & 1st grades)
Fridays 11:00 am Eastern Time Zone

Teacher Information:
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Course Description:
What could be more fun than exploring the science and geography of Music? And the younger we start, the better! In this course, we will
- Experiment with how sound works, research what makes higher and lower pitches, and make simple musical instruments.
- Investigate the names of pitches and rhythms and discover how to use them.
- Travel into Solfege Land, where we will learn to sing songs in Music Language, and use Kodaly-Curwen signs to examine the patterns of songs with our hands.
- Learn to play songs on our class instrument. Students will begin playing songs on Day 1 and explore how to transfer these songs to other instruments in the home.
- Compose our own short songs, writing both music and lyrics.

In addition, students will
- Practice handling musical mistakes calmly, and learn how to turn them into opportunities.
- Open the “practice toolbox” and test out ways to learn efficiently.

Music-learning should be fun and encouraging, so the class will be taught with a lively emphasis on games, hands-on activities, and group interaction. Homework will require 5-10 minutes per day, on average, and will consist of practicing short songs and occasional handwritten or Noteflight.com assignments.
Technology requirements:

- Ability to print PDF’s.
- Access to a scanner. Students will need to turn in homework in the form of scans of handwritten pages. Many printers have a scanner function.
- Access to a video recorder (phone camera). Students will need to turn in homework in the form of short videos of practice assignments.
- Access to a digital camera (phone camera). Students may need to turn in homework in the form of photos for some assignments.
- Ability to mute and unmute microphone easily. A working microphone is essential.
- Video “on” during all class sessions. A working webcam is essential.
- Free account with Noteflight.com.
- Free app on smartphone, Audiostream Lite.

Material requirements:

- ENNBOM Desk Bells Hand Bells 8 Notes Music Bells Percussion Instrument Musical Teaching Chromatic. Best price currently is on Amazon. If you find them elsewhere for a comparable price (around $30), or find bells with the same color scheme, please let the teacher know! This will help others, because we would like to list other sources. Note: These are desk bells with a little push-button on top. Do not purchase the kind with long handles. They must be push-button style.
- Song Book and Recordings TBA. Explanation: I am creating the textbook and recordings for the class, and they is still in process. There will be a fee, based on production costs.
- 4 large plastic cups, and 8 small plastic cups. (These can be the disposable kind, as long as they are sturdy.)
- 1 pair chopsticks
- 1 pair dice
- 1 2x6 piece of lumber, cut to 28” long. Example: Lowe’s 2in x 6in x 4ft. You may be able to have it cut in-store. This is for the bells to rest on; we will be tracing them and labeling the circles on the board.
- 2 two-pocket folders for holding assignments, of any color. Labels for the two folders are as follows:
  1. Decoding Folder:
     1. Music Maps
     2. Song-Form Diagrams
  2. Writing Folder:
     1. Compositions
     2. Theory Pages
- A landscape wide pad, college-ruled, 11” wide x 9.5 tall. These look like ordinary notepads, except the lines run sideways, in landscape format instead of portrait.
Available online from many stores, but prices vary widely. Available in **white**, **canary yellow**, and **3-packs of blue/purple/pink**. Only one pad needed per student. The white color is the most economical. Some students think better with colored paper, however, and that is worth considering. (Alternatively, a **composition notebook**, the sewn kind with a tape binding, can be disassembled and the pages used as long sheets of paper.)

- Plain copy paper (same kind as for a printer)
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Pencil for writing music
- Pencil or pen for taking notes
- Black fine-point permanent marker, for labelling the resonator bells as directed at the start of the course. (The parent may wish to be the one to do this.)
- Household objects

Environment Requirements:

- A quiet and non-distracting room, with televisions and other music turned off.
- Webcam at eye level, so the student is not looking down.
- A box, bag, work drawer, or student desk interior for holding all the class materials and supplies in one place. Having everything ready and close at hand is important in this course.
- Parents are encouraged to be nearby and facilitate during the classes, as young students are still learning to organize their materials and have everything handy. Also, parents will be in charge of ensuring that students can make videos, photos, or scans of their homework assignments and send them to the teacher. Parents should also be prepared to be enthusiastic audiences for their children’s “show and tell’s” during the week.

Grading/Evaluations:

Faculty of St. Athanasius Academy assess achievement of the student and assign grades according to a collegial GPA: 4 (A = excellent), 3 (B = very good), 2 (C = adequate), 1 (D = poor), 0 (F = requirements not met).

Every effort will be given by the faculty to help students succeed, but laziness and lack of achievement cannot be ignored. Also, it is unfair to give two students the same grade who did not apply themselves equally. Therefore, grades will be at the discretion of the teacher.
Grading Breakdown:
- Class Participation: 25%
- Tests: 25%
- Homework/Classwork: 25%
- Project: 25%

Attendance:
St. Athanasius Academy does not have an official attendance policy, but a lack of attendance could affect participation and final grading by the teacher. The virtual classrooms are available to any students with internet access.

We attempt to record all video calls to make them available for students who are absent. The recorded videos, while not as useful as live interaction, are made available for enrolled students to review when absent. We are unable to promise that 100% of all video calls will be recorded and posted online.

Classroom Expectations:
1. Arrive to class on time and have your video “on.”
2. Be prepared. Have all your materials with you.
3. Respect your classmates and teacher.
4. Give your all, all the time.
5. Be responsible for your actions.
6. No eating, drinking, cell phones, or extra electronics permitted during class time.

Assignments and Tests:
Students will be asked to complete assignments on a regular basis. The nature of the assignments will vary: they may involve writing or completing worksheets, drawing, computer-based composition or theory activities, listening to assigned recordings, or making videos of a song the student has been practicing.

At various points throughout the year, quizzes and exams will be given. These assessments will always be based on material covered in class. The purpose of assessments is to measure student understanding.

Song Writing Project: Students will be asked to compose a short piece in any style, to be written and submitted to the teacher prior to the end of the term. Guidelines for this project will be distributed following the completion of the first unit.
Homework Assignment Timeliness

It is expected that students will complete assignments in a timely manner and turn them in when due. If you miss an assignment or test it is YOUR responsibility to make it up.

Following each class period I will send out a reminder to the class with details on homework assignments and upcoming tests or quizzes. **If the assignment is late without an accepted excuse, then the assignment may not receive full credit.**

**If you miss an assignment for any reason and do not turn it in within one week of the due date, you will receive no credit.** Note: If your student is experiencing an extended illness, please discuss the matter so that we can look into options about how to handle grades.

Please make arrangements with me, the teacher, if you are having trouble understanding the material or have special considerations. I want to help make this a successful class for you, but if you wait until a grade is assigned on homework, it will be too late.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Both are considered serious offenses and will significantly affect your course grade.