
Updated April 14, 2017



Music

Music is provided to all K-4 San Carlos School District students through the Music for Minors Program.

About Music for Minors

Founded in 1976, Music for Minors (MFM) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to nurture in children a lifelong love of music by providing quality music education programs in elementary school classrooms.

Guiding Principles

- Participation in school music develops creativity, social development, critical thinking, and self-esteem.
- A solid music background is a vital part of every young student's well-rounded education.
- A high-quality, comprehensive, inclusive music curriculum should be offered to all students.
- A comprehensive study of music involves singing, creating, reading, listening and responding to music.
- A music program is most effective when there is a sequence of scope, musical knowledge and skills taught for all students.
- Music education positively influences other academic disciplines.

Music in Our Schools

The program provides a specially tailored music education program for our students. Professional music educators deliver comprehensive, sequential, and standards based music education in 30-minute sessions for grades K-3, and 45-minute sessions for grade 4. A common repertoire of songs and activities and a standardized program will

be delivered across the district. MFM provides support for methods in Orff, Kodaly, introductory band, and practice performance-based learning via multicultural folk songs, rhymes, dances and singing games, jazz and classical art music. MFM management maintains an ongoing dialogue and relationship with district and school personnel, through the newly formed Music Advisory Committee, to focus on the continued music scope that will complement overall district music educational goals and needs.

MFM Teaching Focus

MFM students attain a basic foundation in rhythm, reading music and playing a percussion instrument, as well as an appreciation of the breadth and depth of music from a range of cultures.

- **Singing:** pitch matching, posture, breath, head voice, chest voice, ear training, enunciation.
- **Rhythm:** steady beat, rhythm, body percussion, rhythm instrument.
- **Movement:** body percussion, folk dance, music games, action songs.
- **Listening:** across the eras and across the world.
- **Playing Recorder (4th grade):** reading notation and fingering notes and preparation for middle school instrumental programs.

Benefits of the MFM Music Education Program

The overarching goal of the MFM In-School Music Education Program is to provide for a strong music learning experience that can be the basis for supporting complementary performance experiences. The emphasis will be on learning and practicing music, culminating in demonstration sharing events based upon the work in classrooms district wide.

1. MFM delivers curriculum that meets the California State Board of Education Standards for Music.
2. MFM students learn basic music making and develop age appropriate music literacy through active participation
3. By 4th grade, the anticipated outcomes of an MFM music education include:
 - Ability to play a musical instrument; the recorder.
 - Improvement in ability to read music both for notes and rhythm.

- An understanding of playing technique both in hand position and breathing techniques.
- Improvement in successfully playing harmony.
- Preparedness to enter the instrumental music program in grade 5

5. MFM students develop a foundation for choral and instrumental music in later grades.

6. MFM provides the musical instruments and teaching materials.

7. MFM measures student progress through continual and performance-based assessments.