



MUSIC

4

FOR FAMILIES

FOURTH GRADE

What to expect:

Singing, movement, playing instruments and working with other children are the heart of the fourth-grade music curriculum. Activities should give students opportunities to practice and learn carefully selected, age-appropriate songs that reflect the background and experiences of the entire class.

In fourth grade, students will have a complete understanding of the music scale (*do re mi fa so la ti*) and begin to learn about real note names (*a b c d e f g*). Students may want to learn to play an instrument such as a recorder or ukulele and will have a growing understanding of rhythm (beat) and meter.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Have a greater understanding of rhythms and syncopation (rhythms that are not on the beat).
- Expand meters beyond a marching meter like “Boomer Sooner” and a waltzing meter (“My Favorite Things” from “The Sound of Music,” for example).
- Identify different distances between the pitches on a music scale (for example, a step between *do* and *re* and a half step between *mi* and *fa*).
- Use real note names (*a b c d e f g*) on the music staff (the five lines and four spaces that Western-European music is traditionally written on).

What to do at home:

- Ask your child to sing a round (a song where one person sings ahead of or behind the other) together. Popular rounds include “Make New Friends” and “Are You Sleeping?”
- Encourage your child to sing the National Anthem at sports events, sing with you at worship services or sing “Happy Birthday” to others.
- Listen to music together in the car and at home.
- Go to short, age-appropriate concerts or musical performances together.
- Clap or move to the beat of a song. Dance together!
- Encourage your child’s musical interest by suggesting they practice an instrument like a ukulele or piano.

You are your child’s first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma’s academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child’s teachers and ask how you can support music learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home.

Support your child's musical curiosity with questions like these:

- When you hear this song, what do you like about it? If you don't like it, why not?
- What voices and instruments do you hear?

If your child seems to have an interest in music, consider researching musical artists, then listening to them or watching their videos together. Consider purchasing a new or used instrument (ukulele, guitar, etc.) and finding free online tutorials to help your child get started.

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's musical communication skills with questions like these:

- What do you think this song is about?
- How do you know? Did the words in the song tell you? Or was it the speed of the music or the instruments used?

Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge and learning. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect music with physical activity. Put on a popular song and dance with your child or dance to YouTube videos together.
- Connect music with writing by changing words to a song or inventing new verses. If there's a song your child really loves, encourage them to write a new verse, following the phrase and rhyming of the original verses.
- Share music from your childhood or teen years. Ask your child what they think of the music. Depending on the song, talk about the musical history of the time (for example, the grunge era or early hip-hop) or events that were happening in the nation (for example, patriotic country songs from the early 2000s).

Join the conversation!

@oksde