

Music Curriculum

(revised 2012-2013 school year)

I. Introduction

- A. Foundational Statements key to all curriculum strands include the school's:
1. philosophy of education as articulated in the CSI publication, *The Beginning of Wisdom*;
 2. statement of purpose;
 3. principles of instruction;
 4. mission statement
- B. The role of Christian music education is to teach students that music is to be used as a way to glorify God and praise Him for what he has done, not to glorify ourselves and the gifts we've been given. We do this through:
- Equipping our students for a life-long appreciation of music, whether it be while listening, performing, or worshipping.
 - Developing vocal, literacy, and playing skills
- C. The music curriculum should be integrated into other subject areas whenever possible for it to be the most beneficial to students.

II. Philosophy

God is the creator of all things, including music, and His creative hand is evident in the world around us. As His image bearers, we are created with the ability and the desire to express ourselves, with music being one avenue for expression. The Bible clearly records the importance of music in the lives of God's people, beginning in the Book of Beginnings—Genesis—and stretching through the final book of Revelation. The book of Psalms is filled with songs of praise, worship, thankfulness, and repentance that express our daily walk with God.

Music education is an integral part of the curriculum at Sioux Center Christian School, enabling all students to develop their God-given abilities to their fullest expression of praise. Every student has the capacity to create and experience music for its aesthetic beauty while also bringing glory to our Creator God. A wide variety of activities, performances, literature, and media all contribute to a comprehensive education in music. From general music and choir for all students, to band and orchestra for those who elect to participate, music education seeks to stimulate creativity and also cultivate literacy. Literacy begins in kindergarten as students are exposed to the elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, texture), and then continues to be built upon as students gain knowledge and experience. Through years of purposeful exposure to music of high quality and value, students develop a framework for incorporating music into the rhythm of their lives. Music

education seeks to nurture each student's God-given abilities for a lifetime of enjoyment and of kingdom service.

III. National Standards for K-8 Music

1. Students will sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Students will perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Students will improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Students will compose and arrange music within specified guidelines.
5. Students will read and notate music.
6. Students will listen to, analyze, and describe music.
7. Students will evaluate music and music performances.
8. Students will understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Students will understand music history and culture.

IV. Sioux Center Christian School Standards for K-8 Music

1. Students will appreciate and find joy in music.
2. Students will develop singing voice.
3. Students will be given opportunity for instrumental experience.
4. Students will be exposed to music in various styles, genres, and historical contexts.
5. Students will learn music literacy.

V. Guidelines for Choir, Band, and Orchestra

1. Choir Goals and Guidelines:

As a choir we will strive to meet the following technical goals:

1. To demonstrate appropriate posture for good vocal production and breath control
2. To sing with free, natural tone and accurate pitch throughout the entire vocal range
3. To develop musical independence demonstrated through correct part-singing

4. To respond sensitively to gestures of the conductor
5. To interpret correctly what is on the printed page and improve music literacy

2. Choir Repertoire Selection Guidelines:

- Consideration of text (age appropriate? Proper content? Can words stand alone artistically?)
 - Secular may certainly be part of our repertoire, but since we have the opportunity here to sing wonderful pieces that reflect, deepen, and strengthen our faith; we should seize that opportunity.
- Students should (sometime within 5th-8th grade) experience, learn, and perform music across the choral spectrum (including: folk, music from historical periods, different styles (jazz, folk, classical, pop), music written specifically for voices in this age.
- Pedagogical merits (what can this piece teach? What can the singer learn pedagogically?) (Can they read the music? Solfege? Rote?)
- Consider showcasing your choir's strengths (good men's section? Choose a song that features the men).
- Choose music that fits the range of your students. Set them up for success. Please consider having unchanged boy voices sing alto/soprano. They can't sing baritone well.

3. Band Goals and Guidelines

As a band we will strive to meet the following technical goals

1. To demonstrate appropriate posture for good tone production and breath control
2. To play with free, natural, and warm tone
3. To understand specific band terminology and notation.
4. To be able to successfully participate in a tuning process (hearing where they are in relation to a tuning note, where they should be, *and* adjusting their instrument appropriately)
5. To respond sensitively to gestures of the conductor
6. To interpret correctly what is on the printed page, improve music literacy, and improve sight reading skills (alone and with others)
7. To be capable of playing ensemble music with increased difficulty each year (grade 0.5-1 in 5th grade, grade 1-2 in 6th, grade 2+ in 7/8).
8. To play music in various keys (a basic guideline could be in 5th grade play in Bb, Eb, and F; in 6th grade be able to also play in C and Ab; in 7/8th grade be able to also play in Db and G).
9. To understand and display appropriate rehearsal etiquette
10. To develop solo repertoire playing

4. Orchestra Goals and Guidelines

As an orchestra we will strive to meet the following technical goals

1. To demonstrate appropriate posture

2. To play with good intonation - left hand technique
3. To play with good tone quality - right hand technique
4. To understand specific orchestra terminology and notation.
5. To be able to successfully participate in a tuning process (hearing where they are in relation to a tuning note, where they should be, *and* adjusting their instrument appropriately)
6. To respond sensitively to gestures of the conductor
7. To interpret correctly what is on the printed page including string specific terminology and notation, and improve sight reading skills (alone and with others)
8. To be capable of playing ensemble music with increased difficulty each year (grade 1 in 3rd/4th grade, grade 2 in 5th/6th, grade 3 in 7/8).
9. To play music in various keys.
10. To understand and display appropriate rehearsal etiquette
11. To develop solo repertoire playing
12. To develop cooperation, critical thinking, teamwork and social skills