Music program guide - The Choice School

Music department

Students in high-quality school music education programs score higher on standardized tests compared to students in schools with deficient music education programs, regardless of the socioeconomic level of community. Playing a musical instrument significantly enhances the brainstem’s sensitivity to speech sounds. This relates to encoding skills involved with music and language. Experience with music at a young age can “fine-tune” the brain’s auditory system. Nature Neuroscience.

Greetings to all students, parents and friends! The Choice school music dept welcomes you to have a successful year of music making, in the midst of the unexpected circumstances created by the Covid 19 pandemic. The music program guide provides you with the helpful information to choose the area of your choice. The dept offers programs for the middle and high school students, covering various styles of music from classical idiom to the contemporary. The dept will also conduct various workshops, master classes and performances throughout the year at all three campuses and at JTPac. Performances made by professional musicians can greatly inspire/enhance a student’s music education. As the student ensemble grows in confidence and mastery, the students will want to demonstrate their accomplishments publicly and such performances can showcase their achievements in the classroom to parents, peers, and the community.

Ensemble Descriptions:

The Choice Kidzrock: The young kids band of Std 3 & 4 performs popular songs and own compositions based on the instructions they receive on vocal,
guitar, keyboard, bass and drums. The songs use simple music patterns based on rock and alternates with other genres as well, allowing this age group to enjoy the feeling of musical performance! The nature of the genres by having frontman on the vocals, the grunge guitars, synth sounds, the anchor of bass and the solid drumming together make this iconic band of the age.

The Contemporary - is our senior rock band that is more familiar to our students in utilizing the musical instruments that are common to the contemporary genres: guitar, bass, drums, piano, voice and technology. Members are selected through an audition which got announced at the beginning of July this year. Students are taught to create, compose and perform music with independent practice and focused group rehearsals during music classes and zero hour throughout the year, with a variable schedule. This band explores the skills student musicians have acquired in their classrooms and provides them a unique musical experience.

Chamber Jazz - is an orchestra with a large group of performers that meet to specialize on music genres including classical, jazz, pop and chamber music. The focus will be on developing the fundamental ensemble skills, with an emphasis on the basics of tone, balance, blend, musical expression, phrasing, intonation and rhythmic accuracy. Orchestra students will be divided into small groups while working with the peers and are expected to attend all rehearsals, maintain a consistent at-home practice routine, and perform in the rehearsals with their varied repertoire of music in the combo and big-band formats. Instruments include trumpet, trombone, saxophone, guitar, bass, piano, drums, percussion and an additional string section that consists of violins. The Chamber Jazz Orchestra will be a major performing group of our school.

Choice Swaralaya: This gives the opportunity for our musically talented children to partake in the vocal oriented classical programs, by preserving the value of Carnatic music which is well known for our cultural and rich traditional values. Like many other genres, the Carnatic music has its own characteristics and can be appreciated at two levels mainly, emotional and intellectual. With fewer accompaniments, the songs are based on various ragas and blend with the voice percussion and presented occasionally.

Choice Chorus: is an auditioned choir open for students of Std 3 and above. It’s a large mixed vocal ensemble of our school with a year-long performance training that teaches the basics of good choral singing and the musicianship. Rehearsing every week, each session begins with vocal warm-up exercises, followed by practice on specific choir pieces with the piano accompaniment.
Singers are expected to develop their music literacy, vocal technique, harmony and capacity that includes good tone quality, vowel uniformity, breathing techniques and listening skills. The chorus performs a wide variety of music including classical, ethnic, popular, musical theatre and contemporary works. The auditioned choir performs for school events, Christmas, annual productions and a one time fee for the uniform.

**Percussion Ensemble:** This is the most rhythmic group of our school which supports various ensemble performances. Students develop percussive skills on conga, timbales, drum-set and small percussion. They will have a direct focus on their instrument in a setting that provides the opportunity to play familiar instrumentation and experiment with more unconventional approaches to percussion. The ensemble rehearse and performs variety of pieces by following world drumming styles from African and Latin American influences.

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