

Welcome to Music at DAA!

Our program curriculum is primarily based on the US National Standards for Music Education as developed through NAFME (National Association for Music Education).

Throughout the year, your child will learn through carefully designed, age-appropriate lessons that foster creativity and great appreciation for music using these standards as a framework for learning.

Since music is a cumulative subject, the standards often overlap and several may be incorporated into one lesson. Building skills and student-centered learning allows your child to find his/her voice within the class and to take responsibility for the learning.

National Standards for Music Education

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

Singing is a fundamental music skill and is reinforced, practiced, and explored in every lesson.

2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

Our classrooms are stocked with high-quality instruments (including pitched and non-pitched percussion) so that your son/daughter enjoys the sounds they are exploring. Throughout the year, they will play many instruments in solo and group settings, reinforcing steady-beat and rhythm.

3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.

Learning to improvise is a great creative journey rooted in skill. From an early age, students are encouraged to identify patterns and sequences as pathways into improvisation.

4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.

As with many subjects, students must master some basic skills before moving to the application/exploration stage. Throughout this year, students will learn about composition through a developmentally appropriate layering of concepts. Patterns, sequences, organization, basic form, and eventually melody will be explored.

5. Reading and notating music.

Music is a language. In the early years, our program focuses on pictorial notation and moves into traditional music notation. Throughout their journey, students will be exposed to various methods of notating music and make choices about the best method for a specific task.

6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.

Students are encouraged to use appropriate vocabulary words to describe music throughout the year. Whether through pictures, drawings, words, or movements, students will develop critical listening skills and their ability to respond.

7. Evaluating music and music performances.

Feedback (positive and constructive) is essential to any growing process. In music class, students are exposed to professional performances (recordings/videos), live student performance, and their own performance. Graphic organizers, rubrics, and student designed evaluation methods allow them to feel comfortable sharing/receiving opinions that are descriptive and accurate.

8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

The music program at DAA is fully committed to developing the “whole child.” In music class, students go far beyond making music. Creative movement is essential for building coordination and gross motor skills. Group activities and games focus students on elements of music while working on cooperation and collaboration. Students are given opportunities to explore language (lyrics), math (beat/rhythm), science (sound), history (how world events have shaped music and the arts), and reading (notation/words).

9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Students will sing, play, and listen to music from diverse cultures, along with finding cultural belongings. In music class at DAA, students will embark on a musical enriching journey that opens their minds and hearts.

Please contact us with any questions or if you would like clarification on any points of our music curriculum.

Musically yours,
Mr. Andrew Arcello (andrew.arcello@gemsdaa.net)
Ms. Julia Fabrizio (julia.fabrizio@gemsdaa.net)
DAA Primary School Music Team

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