

**Music at St.B's Grades K-8 2009/2010**  
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Welcome to music at St. Bernardine's School, grades Kindergarten through eight! I am so excited to be working with the children again this year and I have assembled what I hope will be an informative and enjoyable curriculum!

**Kindergarten:** I am so excited to be able to work with our Kindergartners as we discover his/her hidden talents! Music for Kindergarten is on Mondays and Tuesdays this year. During these classes we sing, sing, sing! We'll be working out of a series called Musicplay for Kindergarten by Denise Gagne, in addition to several other supplemental collections including Mary Rice Hopkins, Ligouri's Vacation Bible School, and It's Time for Music by Mary Louise Reilly. We'll read from fun music stories including Gustav Mole and I Know a Shy Fello Who Swallowed a Cello, and watch short DVD excerpts from movies like Bluestock and Let's Make Music! We will also be singing liturgical music as we prepare to sing at our school liturgies and work on our Christmas program which will begin late October.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** 1<sup>st</sup> grade music meets on Mondays and Tuesdays this year. We'll sing, sing, sing during these classes! We'll be working out of a series called Musicplay for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade by Denise Gagne, in addition to several other supplemental collections including Mary Rice Hopkins, Ligouri's Vacation Bible School, Movement Songs, and Disney Sing-a-Longs. We'll read from fun music stories including Zin, Zin the Violin, and The Blues of Flats Brown, and we'll watch short DVD excerpts from movies like Kids Songs, Disney Sing-a-Longs and The Nuttiest Nutcracker. We will also be singing liturgical music as we prepare to sing at our school liturgies and work on our Christmas program beginning late October.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade music meets on Mondays and Wednesdays this year. We will begin to play a fun instrument called a "Boomwhacker" this year. These are pitched, colored plastic tubings. They will give us the foundation we need to play the hand bells in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We will sing from our World of Music series as well as singing from several other supplemental collections including Mary Rice Hopkins, Ligouri's Vacation Bible School and Disney Sing-

a-Longs. Finally, we'll read from fun music stories like Mole Music or Bach's Big Adventure, or listen to stories like Peter and the Wolf and The Carnival of the Animals. Wednesdays, we'll work out of a series called Stories and Songs of Jesus vol.1 where we'll hear a bible story, sing a song to go with the story and work out of a companion workbook. We'll also be singing liturgical music as we prepare for our school liturgies. I look forward to working with the children as they prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** There's a lot to do in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade music. We'll begin each Tuesday class with playing the hand bells. After we've played our instruments, we'll sing from our World of Music series. Finally we'll watch some short DVD excerpts from movies like Fantasia 2000 or we'll listen to stories like Pictures at an Exhibition or The Farewell Symphony. Wednesdays we'll work out of a series called Stories and Songs of Jesus vol.2 where we'll hear a bible story, sing a song to go with the story, and work out of a companion workbook. Wednesdays will also be spent singing liturgical music. And finally, we'll do some reading from fun music stories like Ella, and The Batboy and His Violin.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The 4<sup>th</sup> grade meets for music on Mondays and Wednesdays. In the 4<sup>th</sup> grade we study the Symphony Orchestra. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the various sections of the orchestra, the role of the conductor and the role of "first chair". They'll learn to recognize various instruments of the orchestra by sight and sound, and we'll investigate some other instrumental ensembles that include the marching band, jazz band, chamber orchestra and wind ensemble. "Guest artists" are invited to demonstrate various instruments in the classroom. We'll also continue to sing out of our World of Music series, and sing liturgical music. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade also plays hand bells. This leads nicely into 5<sup>th</sup> grade music, where they'll learn to play the recorders and musical theory.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This year in music, we will be exploring concepts in music theory on Tuesdays. This will be the first year that we meet for a full hour once a week rather than twice a week for two half hours. We are using a workbook series this year published by Alfred's Publishing Company titled Essentials of Music Theory vol.1. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, students will learn to read notes both in treble and bass clef, read various note values and rests, create a grand

staff, learn about ties and slurs, leger lines, and finish the year by understanding the use of accidentals (sharps, flats and naturals). Students will begin to learn the recorder this year once some of the basics in theory are mastered. In addition to music theory and recorder, we will be singing from the World of Music series and liturgical music.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade music meets on Thursdays. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade we continue to explore music theory. We'll begin the year with a quick review, using Sandy Feldstein's Practical Theory. Then students will move into the second workbook in a series from Alfred's Publishing Company, Essentials of Music Theory, vol.2. We will be learning about such things as intervals, major scales, key signatures, more note values and various terms such as tempo markings and dynamic markings. We hope to work with the recorder this year, applying what we have already learned in theory. Finally, we will study American Musical Theater. We'll watch 6 musicals and analyze them together, starting with The Music Man.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade music meets on Mondays and explores our musical history with the study of our classical composers. We travel through the various periods of music, beginning with the Baroque Period and finishing with Modernism. Through each period we will learn about several composers, starting with Bach and ending with Prokofiev and Stravinsky. There'll be some lecture and discussion, listening, and watching various DVD's and Videos. We will also continue to sing liturgical music.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade music explores the history of American Music on Mondays. We begin with the pilgrims arriving in the "New World" and travel to 2010! We'll talk about folk, blues, country, jazz, "popular" ("Tin Pan Alley" days), and rock (1950's to present). There's lots of listening, watching DVD's and videos, lectures and discussions. We also continue to sing liturgical music. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders lead our Christmas Program scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>. We'll begin work on this in October!