

Springhurst has an exciting and comprehensive music program that helps students develop a lasting love of music as well as skills that will allow them to successfully participate in the many musical ensembles Springhurst has to offer.

Performances

Throughout their years at Springhurst, students participate in various musical presentations that families and guests are invited to attend:

- 2nd Grade students present “informances” to their Parents during music class, highlighting the variety of activities of their General Music classes.
- 3rd Grade students perform in a morning concert featuring both recorders and orchestra.
- 4th and 5th Grade students perform twice a year, with each grade having their own Winter and Spring Concerts. These concerts typically feature Orchestra, Band, Harmonaires and Chorus. (More information about these ensembles is below.) 4th and 5th Grade Concerts are held in the evening, with an additional concert assembly for fellow students in the morning.

General Music

Students in all grades participate in General Music classes once or twice per six-day cycle. In these classes, students learn important musical concepts and skills through a variety of activities; including creative movement, playing classroom instruments, and active listening. In addition, 3rd grade students learn the recorder, 4th grade students are exposed to World Music Drumming, and 5th grade students play the ukulele.

Chorus

All 4th and 5th Grade students participate in a grade-level Chorus, where students learn how to sing and create harmony as a group while also being exposed to a variety of musical styles. Each chorus performs at their grade-level winter and spring concerts. Chorus meets once per six-day cycle.

Harmonaires

4th and 5th Grade students who love to sing can join the Harmonaires. This group is a long-standing Springhurst tradition, and meets once per week before school, and performs at the winter and spring concerts. In Harmonaires, students sing more challenging repertoire with an emphasis on developing vocal technique and harmonies.

Instrumental Music

The instrumental music program at Springhurst consists of **Orchestra** (Grades 3, 4 and 5) and **Band** (Grades 4 and 5). These are elective programs that students choose to participate in. The General Music program does an amazing job of preparing students to participate in these groups. By learning to play an instrument, students gain a valuable skill that they can take with them throughout their lives, and become part of an exciting musical team.

- Instruments
 - Orchestra consists of four string instruments: violin, viola, cello and bass.

- Band consists of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments including flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, French horn, drums and bells.
- At the end of 2nd Grade (orchestra) and 3rd Grade (band), students see demonstrations of these instruments and decide on their top three choices for which instrument they would like to play the following year.
- Lessons
 - Orchestra and Band students meet once per six day cycle for a small group lesson, which is generally with similar or same instruments. These lessons take place during the school day during a period which has been designated as a “pullable time.” Students leave their classroom for this lesson, and are responsible for any missed classwork.
- Rehearsals
 - 4th and 5th Grade Orchestra and Band students also attend rehearsals before school once a week, starting at 7:45. These rehearsals are mandatory and are essential to the success of the ensembles. In rehearsals, students focus on playing well together as an ensemble and following a conductor.
- Practicing
 - Orchestra and Band students are expected to practice consistently throughout the school year; those that practice will have a successful experience and gain confidence in their playing ability. A good guideline is ten minutes per day, but consistency and dedication are the most important components of a good practice routine.
- Participating in multiple ensembles
 - In general, students in 4th and 5th Grade must choose either band or orchestra and are not permitted to participate in both; exceptions to this policy are rare and are made on a case by case basis at the discretion of the teacher.
 - Students are able to participate in one of the instrumental ensembles (band or orchestra) and Harmonaires.

Middle School and beyond!

All 6th Grade students must participate in either orchestra, band or chorus; 5th Graders who are stepping up to Middle School will have the choice of which group to join. Typically, instrumental students are encouraged to continue with the instrument they played in 5th Grade.

Students’ music education at Springhurst sets a solid foundation for a lifelong love of music. In Middle and High School, students will have multiple opportunities to build on that foundation through various ensembles, musicals and advanced music classes. The Springhurst music teachers are thrilled to help students get started on their musical journey!