

# Music Program



NorthCreek Academy seeks to enrich the lives of our students with music. The Bible teaches that music can be used for praise and worship (Psalm 33:2-3), and we treasure putting this into practice. We believe that music is part of God's Creation and with it, we bring glory to our Creator. Music can be used to encourage and build others up in the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:18-19).

## Classroom Music

### Kindergarten

In the first year of classroom music, students explore sound through singing games to develop melody memorization and sound mimicking and by using different types of percussion instruments. Kindergartners learn and perform Bible songs, Christmas songs, and songs for an end-of-the-year musical.

### First Grade

First graders learn basic music notation and theory. They also learn some of the patriotic songs of our country. They also learn about musical inventions and when Instruments were first made. As part of building hearts that desire to give praise to God, a repertoire of Bible songs is built and we and discuss being sure we are singing things that are true about God. This concept is developed and continued in subsequent years.

### Second Grade

Second graders review and add to their knowledge of music notation and theory. This is put into practice by playing the chimes and singing songs. As they study music history, they learn about the lives and culture of many of the important composers. The elements of reverence and joyful expression in musical worship are explored as students participate in group song-writing exercises.

### Third Grade

Third graders enjoy learning to play the recorder! Music theory is reviewed and put into practice as they learn to read music. One of the highlights of the year happens as part of a study on the orchestra, when students travel to hear the San Francisco Symphony. Students begin some fun melody writing exercises as they compose a Thanksgiving song and some silly songs throughout the year. As they spend time learning worship songs and hymns, students learn about the scriptures behind them along with the history of the hymns. Music students participate in devotions and discuss examining their hearts before God both before and during musical worship.

## Band

### Fourth Grade Beginning Band

Fourth graders learn how to play their first band instruments. The year begins with learning the basic techniques necessary to produce their first sounds from the instrument. Building on their foundation in reading notation, they work through band method books which serve as a tool for developing mastery over fingering shapes, reading notation, basic theory and increasing awareness of correct playing techniques. Students will be exposed to ACSI Music Festival opportunities throughout the year. They will become competent in playing level ½ to 1 band sheet music.

### Fifth Grade Intermediate Band

In their second year of band, students continue learning how to play their instruments. Using their first year method book, students learn more challenging fingerings, notation and rhythms, and develop mastery over breath control and playing technique. After mastering these concepts, students move on to a second year method book



and continue building a foundation in band performance. As part of this process, they play sheet music to grow their, and the band's, repertoire. These songs are often two- to three-minutes in length, and serve as an avenue for expression and summative challenges on all the concepts they have learned. Larger concepts of musicianship such as composition, ear-training, dictation, sight-reading, scale knowledge and intermediate level theory are also studied and students participate in ACSI Music Festival events throughout the year. They will be competent in playing level 1½- to 2-pages of band sheet music.

## Junior High Music

### Advanced Band

By a student's third year in band, a solid foundation has been built. Students use this to master understanding and executing sight-reading; composing an eight- to sixteen- bar piece at will; hearing, and playing back musical phrases; being able to write down complex rhythms; playing all 12 major/minor scales; learning less familiar concepts such as chromatic scales, harmonic and melodic minor scales. Performing at the highest possible level is an expectation with an emphasis on building repertoire and the performance experience. Students are given a continual flow of new songs and are expected to turn them into a solid performance within a few weeks. These songs are more challenging both in length, and technique. Students perform at the ACSI Festivals such as Honor Band, Solo/ Ensemble, and Large Group and have a variety of performances throughout the year.

### Praise Team

This musical group is selected by an audition and application process. The select few slots are filled with one-to-two acoustic guitarists, one drum-set

player, one bass guitar, one piano/keys player, one to two male vocalists, one-to-two female vocalists, and one-to-two Sound/Audio Video Personnel. Students may participate in Praise Team for two years. This group's focus is on two key components: first, developing a band; and second, learning how developing a band correlates to – and is inseparable from – the biblical concept of worship. Praise Team rehearses twice a week, and performs for the junior high and elementary chapels.