

West Jefferson Hills School District Music Philosophy

The mission of the West Jefferson Hills School District Music Department is to provide all students with a broad spectrum of musical experiences. Opportunities are afforded all students to acquire fundamental skills necessary for the understanding, performance, and appreciation of the art of music. Individual and group development of those skills, to the highest possible level is achieved through a variety of general music experiences and specialized performing groups. In the elementary school, students will explore music and musical concepts. In the middle school, these concepts are reinforced and subsidiary concepts are introduced and developed. In the secondary school, students use the previously developed concepts to create the highest quality of musical expression.

The Music Department of the WJHSD has adopted the Pennsylvania State and National Standards in the arts as benchmarks for student achievement in our school district. These standards are designed to reflect a national consensus concerning the highest priority skills and knowledge young people should have acquired upon exiting the 12 grades. They apply to every student through grade eight and to every student enrolled in music beyond grade eight. Our primary purpose is to improve the quality of life for all students by developing their capacities to participate fully in their musical culture.

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.