

Music Standards

The National Standards for Music Education set high expectations for all students in the area of music. MNPS standards are derived from the National Standards and describe the skills in which your child should be proficient. MNPS music teachers use these standards as a guide when creating lessons. Following are the nine national music standards:

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

For more information on the standards go to the MNPS elementary music standards guide at: <http://mnpsfinearts.weebly.com/elementary.html>

Music Grades

Music teachers are required to record grades each nine weeks. Your child's music grade will be based on his/her mastery of the music standards. Many of the music standards are performance skills. Therefore, your child's grade will be heavily based on how well he/she performs these skills in music class. Other music standards involve responding to music, understanding complex concepts, and gaining content knowledge. In this case, part of your child's grade will be based on his/her ability to understand and describe music and musical concepts.

Teachers may require students to show their skills and knowledge in a variety of ways including (but not limited to):

- solo performance
- group performance
- written work
- active response to music (through movement, speaking, writing, drawing, etc.)
- projects

As teachers assess a performance, they must assign a numeric grade. These numbers may be based on the student's accuracy, expression, technique, effort, and other performance elements. Teachers may use various rubrics to aide in assigning numeric grades.

For more information on the grading scale, go to:

http://mnpsfinearts.weebly.com/uploads/5/0/0/3/5003378/rubric_guide.pdf

Helping your child succeed in music

Parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. What is done at home can have a big impact on a child's success at school. The skills a child learns and practices at school are important as well, so this document has been created to assist in "at home" music practice.

Here are a few things you can do to help your child succeed:

- Monitor your child's grades in Gradespeed.
- Regularly ask what your child does and learns in music class.
- Make sure your child attends music class regularly. If your child misses a music class, he or she misses a significant amount of instruction, as well as assessments.
- Encourage your child to always give his/her best effort and participate during class.
- Encourage your child to pay attention in class.
- Practice and discuss music at home

For more specific ideas, refer to the body of this document.
