



MUSIC 5

FOR FAMILIES

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students' musical understanding is growing in fifth grade. They can now use the skills and concepts they have learned in previous grades with more complex songs and music. They will begin singing in parts (where one group of students is singing a melodic line and the other group is singing a harmonic line). Fifth grade is also the year when students may learn to play an instrument in the school band or orchestra.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Understand most rhythmic combinations.
- Understand the eight pitches of the Western-European music scale with syllables (*do re mi fa so la ti*) and real note names (*a b c d e f g*).
- Understand major and minor modes (music that sounds happy and music that sounds sad or spooky).
- Sing in two parts (where one group of students is singing a melodic line and the other group is singing a harmonic line).
- Learn about various meters beyond a marching meter like “Boomer Sooner” and a waltzing meter (“My Favorite Things” from “The Sound of Music,” for example).
- Explore intervals (*do* to *mi* is a third because they are three steps apart, *do* to *so* is a fifth, etc.) and chords such as an I chord (a chord made up of three pitches, based on the first pitch of the scale *do mi so*).

What to do at home:

- Share your favorite music with your child by singing karaoke together.
- Encourage your child to sing the National Anthem at sports events and sing “Happy Birthday” to others.
- Listen to music together in the car and at home.
- Go to age-appropriate musical performances (concerts, symphonies, etc.) together.
- Clap or move to the beat of a song. Dance together!
- Encourage your child's musical interest by suggesting they practice an instrument like a ukulele or piano.
- Use a cell phone, iPad, laptop or other electronic device to experiment with music creation apps.

You are your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support music learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home.

Support your child's musical curiosity with questions like these:

- When you hear this song, what do you like about it? If you don't like it, why not?
- What voices and instruments do you hear?

If your child seems to have an interest in music, consider researching musical artists, then listening to them or watching their videos together. Consider purchasing a new or used instrument (ukulele, guitar, etc.) and find free online tutorials to help your child get started. Music composition apps and computer programs like GarageBand, Chrome Music Lab or BeepBox allow children to experiment with creating their own music compositions.

Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support your child's musical communication skills with questions like these:

- What do you think this song is about?
- How do you know? Did the words in the song tell you? Or was it the speed of the music or the instruments used?

Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge and learning. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect music with physical activity. Put on a popular song and dance with your child or dance to YouTube videos together.
- Connect music with writing by changing words to a song or inventing new verses. If there's a song your child really loves, encourage them to write a new verse, following the phrase and rhyming of the original.
- Share music from your childhood or teen years. Ask your child what they think of the music. Depending on the song, share the musical history of the time (for example, the grunge era or early hip-hop) or events that were happening in the nation (for example, patriotic country songs from the early 2000s).