



MUSIC

6

FOR FAMILIES

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!

SIXTH GRADE

What to expect:

In sixth grade, students are developing their own musical preferences and can make decisions about what they want to listen to. Singing, movement, playing instruments and working with other children continue to be the heart of the music curriculum. Activities should give students opportunities to practice and learn carefully selected, age-appropriate songs that reflect the background and experiences of the entire class.

Sixth-graders will continue to build on the foundations of their music learning from previous years but will be learning more difficult material. The most important goal of sixth grade is to sing alone and with others in unison (at the same time) and in parts. Students may also be able to learn to play an instrument in the school band or orchestra.

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

- Sing songs with various rhythms and melodies.
- Be able to read music and sight-sing simple, short melodies.
- Sing in two (where one group of students is singing a melodic line and the other group is singing a harmonic line) and three parts (where one group sings the melody and two other groups are singing harmony).
- Learn about various meters.
- 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. Ask them what they think of it and who their favorite singers are. If they don't know, do research to find out.
- Encourage your child to sing the National Anthem at sports events and sing "Happy Birthday" to others.
- Go to age-appropriate musical performances (concerts, symphonies, etc.) together.
- Encourage your child's musical interest by suggesting they practice an instrument like a saxophone, trumpet, etc.
- Use a cell phone, iPad, laptop or other electronic device to experiment with music creation apps.



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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).

Join the conversation!

@oksde