

### Kindergarten Chorus

All Kindergarten students participate in the Kindergarten Chorus class, which meets each school day. Students in this class sing in two performances throughout the school year: the Kindergarten Christmas Concert and the Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony, both of which take place in our school.

Kindergarten Chorus begins with warm-up exercises, which begin their preparations for proper singing technique, which they will continue expanding upon throughout their years at St. Martin de Porres Marianist School. These warm-ups include breathing exercises, pronunciation exercises, and the learning of solfege (“Do-Re-Mi”). The kindergarteners learn a variety of songs, spanning all of the major genres. They are taught these songs by rote. Each month, as part of our school celebrations of Mass, Kindergarteners learn how to sing the Mass parts, as well as the other hymns sung throughout the course of a Mass.

### Grade 3 Recorder and Chorus

Besides learning the skills of chorus during the Third Grade, the third graders also study the basics of the recorder. The recorder curriculum is a year-long adventure where the students learn music as a new language to help them navigate through mysterious lands. Each skill they learn will unlock new parts of their adventure, help them earn badges and give them much needed defenses against their foes. Their recorder adventure begins with gaining allies that help them read music and culminates in performances in the school concerts. Reading and writing skills are emphasized as are group performance and improvisation skills.

### Grade 5 Music

Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade study World Music in this program. This class meets three times per week. In this class, we explore the music of many cultures from around the world. The school year begins with the studying of the classifying of instruments used in our own American culture. This knowledge is taught first, so that the students may have a means of comparing and contrasting instruments from other cultures throughout the remainder of the school year. Several projects are assigned throughout the school year. The most anticipated project of the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Class is the creating and building of original instruments.

### Grade 7 Music

Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade music program learn about musical history, spanning from as early as 600AD through the music of today. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students also learn how to listen to and analyze music. Throughout the school year, students will learn about composers and how music has been composed throughout several major musical time periods. This class meets twice a week, off-setting their Physical Education class.

### Band Program

Students may begin to be enrolled in the Band Program as early as Grade 4. Students enrolled in the Band Program commit to one year of studying a major band instrument from the woodwind, brass, or percussion family. Enrollment in the Band Program entitles all students to one small group lesson each week, where students playing the same instrument may be instructed together. Fourth and Fifth Grade band students meet each day for a band rehearsal, where they prepare music for upcoming concerts and continue working on building their playing technique for advancement on their instrument. Junior High band students meet 2-3 times per week for a group rehearsal, where they prepare music for their upcoming concerts.

Many of our Band Program students enroll in the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Music Festival, which is held each spring. There are many opportunities to perform on their instruments throughout the school year, including at our monthly School Mass, school parades, and our Graduation Exercises.

Instruments may either be brought from home or may be rented out through the school, for the entire school year. For students looking to advance in their technique or receive a little extra help, teacher give private lessons, free of charge, each school day, before and after school.

### Orchestra Program

The Beginner Orchestra consists of students in the 4th and 5th grade who have never played a stringed instrument before. Students in this ensemble will meet in small, instrument-specific weekly lesson groups to work on mastering the basics of their chosen instruments. The Beginner Orchestra will perform in both the Christmas and Spring Concerts.

The Advanced Orchestra is an ensemble for students in the 6th-8th grades who have previous experience playing stringed instruments. Students in this ensemble will meet in small, instrument-specific groups for weekly lessons, as well as spend time together rehearsing as a larger ensemble. The Advanced Orchestra will perform in both the Christmas and Spring Concerts.

### Chorus Program

Children in Grades 1 to 8 who are not in the Band or Orchestra Program participate in the Chorus Program. We begin by introducing music theory thereby giving students a chance to explore vocal music while developing and learning the fundamentals of music. Students will learn how to match pitch and sing in unison and two-part harmony. Students learn how to develop listening skills, breathing techniques, correct pitches and rhythms, tone, diction and proper vowel formation.

Students will use voice warm-ups to focus on the techniques of choral singing and sing in rounds to develop part-singing skills.

Students learn songs in preparation for the schools monthly masses, prayer services, assemblies and special functions. Students learn songs for the Christmas and Spring concerts.