

# Toomer Music

## Music Theme for the Year: Music Dojo

Dear Parents,

This year in music, I want the students to walk into the music room and feel as if they have entered a Chinese Dojo. Much like a Dojo, the room will be a place where students learn the ways of the Masters. Instead of learning Karate, the students will be singing and playing instruments with great self-discipline and focus. I want them to come to class ready to learn musical skills that they can then use to best express their unique talents. I want the students to be singing and playing their instruments in as many events as possible. Through self-paced learning and constant performances, I hope to empower students to reach their full potential and develop their confidence in front of an audience.

The BIG performance will be our Holiday Concert in early December. I'm hoping for lots and lots of volunteers to make this event spectacular. The event was "sold-out" last year, standing room only!

In addition to singing, each grade will learn the following instruments:

K: Rhythm Sticks

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Drums and Percussion

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Xylophones

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Recorder (Option: Buy one for \$1 at the Dollar Tree to practice at home)

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Guitar

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Guitar and Rock Band (Hopefully to include a drum set, bass guitar, and keyboard by the end of the year)

### Grading

Students are graded in the following categories:

50% Participation – 100 points each class. 10 points taken taken off for each official warning.

30% Classwork – There will only be approximately 2-3 graded written assignments, so each is worth a large portion of the grade.

10% Projects – This grade reflects the student's growth in singing and learning their instrument.

10% Assessment – One written pre-test graded for completion, one final written test per semester.

I hope I have the opportunity to meet you soon. If you are interested in being a Music Program Mom or Dad (year-long volunteer as available) please let me know. If you have any questions, or advice on how to best inspire your child, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Amanda Barton

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