General Music:

Students in General Music will form connections to music from various cultures and genres, and how this music relates to culture and history. Students will respond to music by evaluating, interpreting, and discussing the meaning of the music, and the musical choices made by musicians. They will perform in class alone and with classmates using drums, guitars, ukuleles, keyboards, their voices, and multimedia. They will also create their own music using analog instruments and software on their chromebooks. They will plan these compositions and refine them to a finish product.

Chorus:

Students in chorus will learn to use their voices in the most efficient way possible to get the best sound. They will learn to balance and blend so that we are one chorus one sound. Students will also learn to sight read at varying levels appropriate for their grade level so that choral music is easier to interpret. We will learn repertoire in two and three parts, as well as studying partner songs, rounds, and how harmonies in these song types fit together to make one sound. Students will compose their own sight-reading exercises, and possibly their own songs. We will respond to the messages in repertoire, as well as how songs tell stories in musical theater. Students will learn how to show their own personal interpretations of a song’s message by using dynamics, accents, and other stylistic techniques. We will discuss the choices made by performers and use this analysis to inform our own performance. Students will take part in virtual/in-person concerts throughout the year, as circumstances allow.

Band and Orchestra:

Students in band and orchestra will learn to play the instrument of their choice with proper technique and/or embouchure. They will utilize a variety of repertoire to learn how to read notes on the staff, read rhythms, and follow interpretive directions. Students will develop a musical ear in order to control their pitch, tone and timbre, as well as balance with the rest of the ensemble. In playing together students will recognize how their parts fit together to contribute to the overall performance. Students will reach personal goals related to their instrument that are appropriate and tailored to their individual skill level. Beyond just playing the correct notes, students will learn a variety of techniques to better express themselves musically. Students will respond to a variety of recordings and performances in order to recognize how skilled musicians show meaning through their playing, and use that knowledge to begin to develop their own interpretations of the written music. Students will take part in virtual/in-person concerts throughout the year, as circumstances allow.