

General Music Class at Green's Farms School

All classes meet 2x/week, except for 5th grade, which meets only 1x/week.

Students are taught:



To be a great musician:

- **practice music every day,**
- **keep a steady beat, and**
- **listen harder than you sing or play!**



MUSIC CONCEPTS: Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Form, Timbre, Expression

MUSIC SKILLS: Sing, Dance/Move, Listen, Play, Read, Create, Analyze

Every music class starts with a **VOCAL WARM-UP**, then (in no particular order):

- ★ Students **LISTEN** to music and practice keeping a **STEADY BEAT** using body percussion and a variety of unpitched (e.g. rhythm sticks and drums) or pitched percussion instruments (e.g. xylophones);
- ★ Students practice **SINGING** with **SINGING VOICES** (vs. speaking or whispering or shouting voices);
- ★ Students work on **MATCHING PITCH** with their singing voices using Solfege & Curwen Hand Signs (we love playing a game called "So-La-Mi");
- ★ Students learn to **READ** rhythms using TaKaDiMi rhythm syllables and our "Heart Chart" (we love playing a game called "Poison Rhythm");
- ★ Students learn to **READ** melodies using traditional Western music notation (e.g. lines & spaces);
- ★ Students learn to **PLAY** pitched & unpitched percussion instruments;
- ★ Students learn to **CREATE** their own rhythmic & melodic patterns;
- ★ Students learn to **DANCE** and **MOVE** and learn to find a "**SILENT STEADY BEAT**".
- ★ Students learn to **ANALYZE** music and listen for specific musical elements (e.g. "dynamics" and "tempo");
- ★ Students become part of the GFS School Community by learning to sing our school songs:

GFS School Songs:

"The GFS School Song" a.k.a. "Plant The Seed"

"Kindness" * "Patches" * "It Makes A Difference" * "GFS Rules!" * "GFS Field Day Song"

"Am I Ready" * The Westport Song"

Please encourage your student to join the "GFS MUSIC FUN!" page on Google Classroom!

This year's all-school dance: TBD

Music at Green's Farms School, continued...

GRADE LEVEL-SPECIFIC MUSIC ACTIVITIES (subject to change)

Kindergarten Music: Valentine's Day Songs & Dances in February and Singing & Dancing in our final all-school meeting in June

1st Grade Music: Instruments of the Orchestra ("Families") using Benjamin Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" and Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" and learning how to play SCALES on Pitched Percussion (e.g. xylophones, metallophones, glockenspiels)

2nd Grade Music: Musical Play (e.g. "Chicken Licken"), songs of the Armed Forces (for Veteran's Day), Civil Rights Movement (for MLK day), the Underground Railroad, Japan + Hand Games from around the world.

3rd Grade Music: RECORDER! (ordering in November, start playing in December) and *HOEDOWN* in May/June on a Tuesday, 2026 from 2:30 – 3:30 pm.

4th Grade Music: Ensemble pieces, such as "Tideo", "Froggie Went A-Courtin'", "Funga A Lafia" & "Chatter With The Angels" with Recorder melodies, plus short, in-class musical plays, the 12-bar blues and Ukulele.

5th Grade Music: Songs, games & dances + "DJ of the Week" to learn about Musical Expressive, play the "GFS School Song" Harmony on Recorder to play at the annual "Walk-A-Thon" in the fall and the "Olympic Theme" to play at Field Day Opening Ceremonies in the spring.

March is "Music In Our Schools" Month

Every year in March, any student, family member, neighbor, staff member and/or private music teacher who wants to perform a short piece of music during regularly-scheduled music class is invited to do so. Stay tuned for an email with links to Signup Genius in January.

GFS PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

MORNING & IN-SCHOOL REHEARSALS:

- 4th Grade ORCHESTRA rehearsal: Tuesdays at 8:00 am. Small Group Lessons are on Monday, Tuesdays & Thursdays during the school day.
- 5th Grade ORCHESTRA & BAND rehearsal: Wednesdays during the school day, Fridays before school at 8am with Group Lessons on Wednesdays & Fridays during the school day.
- 4th & 5th Grade CHORUS rehearsal: Thursdays at 8:00 am
- Music Extra Help & Dance Rehearsals: Wednesdays (by appointment) at 8:00 am.

2025-26 CONCERT DATES:

In-school assembly for students & staff only and

6:00 pm concert for families & friends

(arrive at 5:30 pm for warm-ups)

Concert dress (unless otherwise specified):

white tops/dark bottoms (pants or skirts) and safe shoes for getting on and off the stage/risers safely.

- Wednesday, December 17, 2025: 4th/5th Grade Chorus & 5th Grade Orchestra
- Sunday, March 8, 2026: Bridgeport Islanders – Chorus singing National Anthem for PTA fundraiser (arrive at 2:15 for 3:00 game)
- Wednesday, May 20, 2026: 5th Grade Band & 5th Grade Orchestra
- Tuesday, June 2, 2026: 4th/5th Grade Chorus & 4th Grade Orchestra

E-Mail us anytime:

General Music (K-5) & Chorus: Suzanne Sherman Propp (spropp@westportps.org)

Orchestra (4th & 5th) & Chorus: Ellen Hardy (ehardy@westportps.org)

Band (5th): Mary Gardner (mgardner@westportps.org)

General Music (K & 5): Lindsey Ogilvy (logilvy@westportps.org)