



ELEMENTARY MUSIC

SPECIAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CPS ELEMENTARY MUSIC STUDENT

*CPS elementary music teachers are committed to providing performance experiences to all CPS students. Performances integrate reading, dramatization, instrumental performance and singing. In preparation for such performances, CPS elementary music teachers talk explicitly with students about performance and audience etiquette, as well as the usefulness of diligent practice, preparation, and cooperation. CPS elementary music teachers feel that these on-stage experiences have a profoundly positive impact on the development of student confidence and self-concept.

*CPS elementary music teachers have accrued an extensive set of African drums over the years. This expensive set of drums is rotated between the schools so that every child may experience an educational unit on the drums every year. We have tied our African drumming units in with picture books, African history books, and listening experiences. The African drumming unit provides a valuable multi-cultural experience which can be related to important geography and social studies lessons, both by the music teacher and the classroom teacher.

*CPS elementary music teachers have accrued an extensive set of Orff instruments over the years. This set of instruments is rotated between the schools so that every child may experience an educational unit on the xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels every year. Our Orff lessons evaluate and enhance students' "mallet readiness", that is to say, their development of hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. We connect our Orff lessons with many picture books, as well as the concepts of the scale, pitch, timbre, melody, phrases, and dynamics. *CPS elementary music teachers have accrued many other instruments as well--such as keyboards, chimes, frogs, and boomwhackers--which are shared between teachers and schools. Each instrumental set may be taught as a unit, or used as a supplement to other musical units.