

Will my child be taught music in their TDSB school?

Music is a strand in both the [elementary](#) and [secondary](#) provincially mandated Ontario Arts Curricula and is taught to every student from grade 1-8 in the TDSB, and to those students who select a Music course in secondary school.

When do students get music and how often do students receive music education?

The delivery of music can take various forms. Elementary schools vary from the integration of music curriculum into other subjects, such as literacy, to music specific periods once or twice a week.

Secondary school music is timetabled in the same way as other subjects. Students who enrol in a music course will see their music teachers every day (in the case of semestered schools) or every other day (in the case of non-semestered programs).

What will my child gain from music classes taught at school?

The music curriculum is intended to help students develop an understanding and appreciation of music, as well as the ability to create and perform it, so that they will be able to find in music a lifelong source of enjoyment and personal satisfaction. (*Ontario Curriculum - The Arts: Grade 1-8*) Research repeatedly demonstrates the benefits of music education for brain development, literacy and numeracy, language, communication, creativity, and collaboration skills.

Who teaches music to TDSB students?

In elementary, music is taught by OCT teachers who are specialists and generalists. In secondary, music is taught by OCT teachers who have music qualifications.

Do all teachers teaching music have qualifications?

In elementary, there is no requirement that teachers have music qualifications in order to teach music. In secondary, music teachers must have a music qualification in order to teach music.

What are the benefits of music specialists in the schools?

Music specialists have specific training in the curriculum, instruction, and assessment of music specific practices and objectives. They have knowledge and critically reflect on the possibilities, benefits, and most effective facilitation of music learning.

What are some extracurricular music activities offered by teachers?

Each school has unique extracurricular offerings in music, sports, and other interests. Your school may have a choir, band, or music club outside of instructional hours. You or your child can inquire at the school office about musical opportunities in the school.

Do all schools have musical instruments available for their students?

Each school's instrumental resources are dependent on a number of factors including school history, community interest and involvement as well as current and past teaching staff. Each school's instruments are property of the TDSB and are for the use of TDSB students at no cost to students or families. School administrators can contact the central TDSB music department if they have questions about building instrumental resources.

How often do students perform?

Each school community along with their music teacher(s) make the decision if and when to perform. Much music learning happens outside of, before, or even without performances. TDSB music educators value what musical performances can offer both the students and the broader school community, and

are very committed to non-performance based learning in the music classroom, including the facilitation and inclusion of student creativity and critical thinking, student voice, mental health and well-being for all, as well as practices that explore social justice in the classroom.

What about guest artists and musicians?

Artists in the classroom are sometimes invited to enrich the learning in a music classroom, but the teaching and reporting of student learning is done by an OCT qualified teacher. Many artists who work in schools are [Educational Partners](#) with the TDSB. The TDSB Music Department supports artist in the classroom projects each year to enrich student learning, and professional development for teachers.

Is technology used in music teaching?

Some schools use electronic instruments, tablets, and computers in their music classrooms to make, remix, record, and play music, depending on the technology available to them and their program goals. The TDSB Music Department makes music technology resources available to teachers through our Community Music Program.

How will my child be marked in music?

Students are assessed and evaluated by OCT teachers on the overall and specific expectations of the [Music Curriculum](#) according to [Ontario Ministry of Education policy](#).

What music opportunities are offered by the TDSB board?

For a full list of opportunities in the TDSB Music Department, please visit the Elementary Music page at www.tdsb.on.ca/Elementary-School/The-Classroom/Subjects-and-Learning/Music and the High School Music page at www.tdsb.on.ca/High-School/Your-School-Day/Curriculum/The-Arts/Music.