



Immaculate Conception School

Immaculate Conception School & Charles City Community Schools partnership for music education

20 August 2019

Charles City, IA – Immaculate Conception School (IC) and Charles City Community Schools announce a partnership to offer music education to IC students. At the end of the last school year, our music teacher submitted her resignation as she was moving out of the area. Following an extensive search for a new music teacher, it became evident that a candidate for the job would not be available. After consultation with the school leadership team and the school board, it was decided to enter into an agreement with Charles City Community Schools. Charles City Community Schools will provide music education to our students at its 500 N. Grand location (former Middle School) for the 2019-2020 academic year. This exciting partnership will benefit our students in that they will receive music education from a dedicated music teacher.

Is this agreement beneficial for both IC School and Charles City Community Schools?

Yes! IC students will receive 30 minutes of music class twice a week from a licensed and specialized music education teacher. The Charles City Community School music department will form our students in music education (which they will be able to continue when students graduate IC School and move to CC Schools), and they will also receive tax dollars (which IC Parents already pay) for providing more music education to the community.

How will my child get to 500 N. Grand?

Students will be bussed from IC School to 500 N. Grand and back to IC School. A teacher/aide will escort students from the buildings to the bus and vice versa. For the first couple of weeks an aide from IC will ride the bus and be present for the music time. Once students know the routine the aide will remain at IC to serve students in the classroom.

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Why 500 N. Grand?

In order for the public school to receive funding to provide this service, students must be educated on public school property. Multiple music rooms in the 500 N. Grand building are still owned by the Charles City Community Schools and will be utilized for this service.

Will non-IC students attend these music classes?

No. Music is currently offered to public school students at Washington and Lincoln Elementary School and at the Middle and High School. The music classes offered at 500 N. Grand will be attended only by IC students.

Will my child be taught faith based music?

Yes! Students will continue to be taught the faith based music that they are accustomed to at IC.

Will we still have faith based school concerts/programs?

Yes! IC will still provide the Christmas program as we have in the past. A team of teachers have volunteered to coordinate the program.

Were other options considered?

Yes! Once it was determined that a music teacher was not going to be available for hire at IC School the following options were considered.

- 1) Have the homeroom teachers teach music in their classrooms.
- 2) Partner with Charles City Community to offer music education.
- 3) Not offer music education at all.

Why was one of the other options not chosen?

First, music is an important part of the curriculum and is valuable to a child's well rounded education. Not offering music to our students was considered a non-viable option. While some teachers are comfortable teaching music, others are not. If we were

to add music to a homeroom teacher's schedule it would eliminate a preparation period that teachers receive to get ready for their lessons and activities.

Who will the music teacher be that works with our children?

Susan Leeper currently works with Charles City Community Schools' homeschooling program. She is endorsed in music and will be serving your children in general music. Susan is the wife of Pastor Russ Leeper.

How will our information be shared with the public school?

IC will provide the Public School with your child's physical address, phone number, any allergy/medical concerns, their home school district, and district ID number. This information will be generated from Power School.

Why was the decision made so close to the start of the school year?

IC did an extensive search for a music teacher. The hope was one would be found before the first day of school. IC and Charles City Community Schools started the conversation mid-summer to create this partnership. We wanted to work together to make the best decision for your children. This took time to talk with the Archdiocese Superintendent, the school boards, and leadership teams.

What are the Benefits of Music Education?

- Music education prepares students to learn
- Enhances fine motor skills
- Prepares the brain for achievement
- Fosters superior working memory
- Cultivates better thinking skills
- Music education facilitates student academic achievement
- Improves recall and retention of verbal information
- Advances math achievement
- Boosts reading and English language arts (ELA) skills
- Improves average SAT score
- Music education develops the creative capacities for lifelong success
- Sharpens student attentiveness
- Strengthens perseverance
- Equips students to be creative
- Supports better study habits and self-esteem

(Music matters – Arts Education partnership Advocacy, Washington D.C.)