

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child
Study Laboratory School

Vocal Technique Program

Jayda Lam

Vocal Technique, a brand-new music program at JICS, will focus on building foundational skills to promote healthy and beautiful singing in our students. While specific exercises, lessons, and repertoire will be tailored to meet each grade level's needs and interests, the core components of the program will be consistent across grades:

- **Pitch** – Students will develop their sense of pitch through various singing and ear-training exercises, such as sing-backs, interval training, echo songs, and learning songs by rote.
- **Mind-body-voice connection** – Students will learn about how to improve the efficiency and flexibility of their voice through practicing different types of breathing, posture, relieving tension, and creating resonant space in their mouths and faces.
- **Musicianship concepts** – We will explore various musicianship concepts through singing such as diction (consonants and vowel shapes), tone (warm, bright, dark, etc.), dynamics and phrasing, and rhythms and note reading. Students will take leadership in this class by choosing how to use musical concepts to create meaning and emotion in each piece.
- **Community-building** – Students will be encouraged to take risks as singers and musicians (this is the only way to grow!). To accomplish this, we will work towards creating a space where students feel they can be vulnerable and have the support of their peers. A simple but important objective of the program is for students to enjoy singing with their classmates and work towards a common goal of making beautiful music.

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Primary (Grades 1-3)

Primary students will explore these concepts through vocal warm-ups and exercises, as well as community-building games. Some games and repertoire will include actions and dance moves to reinforce students' sense of rhythm and beat, while also adding some silliness and fun to our songs!

Junior (Grades 4-6)

Junior students will experience what a youth choir rehearsal might be like, exploring concepts through vocal warm-ups while also learning about the theory behind these intentional exercises. Students will be challenged to find a personal connection to our repertoire and, through the application of various vocal techniques, communicate these messages to an audience.