



## Music Purpose Statement Shoshana Stombaugh, Music Teacher

At SJCS music is infused into every part of our curriculum, supporting the philosophy that music is integral to our daily lives. The overall goals of the music program are for the students to find joy in musical expression, see themselves as performers, use and understand music as communication, experience a range of musical styles and genres, develop skills in singing, producing, listening, and evaluating music, and value music as integral to their lives. The curriculum of the music program includes listening and appreciation, creative expression and movement, music concepts, instrumental production, singing, and developmental skills. These elements are introduced at the youngest grades and deepen and extend with each year.

During master instruction, students are given opportunities to explore and master music through physical, vocal, and/or instrumental means at age appropriate levels. They are introduced to musical concepts, vocabulary, and notation in order to support their ability to communicate comfortably from a musical base. Through cultural studies, as well as selections chosen for instruction, our students are exposed to a variety of cultural music. Developing an appreciation and understanding of music around the world is embraced and considered an important element of musical education.

Singing is highlighted at our school. Students acquire a repertoire of Judaic and secular songs during their music class, T'fillah, Torah Study, and at all-school assemblies. We seize every opportunity to sing: in class, at recess, on the bus on field trips. By the time our students are in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>-grade they employ harmonies and complex arrangements in their singing.

Music is an instrument of access, memorization, and enjoyment of our languages. At SJCS we celebrate through music. Students are given opportunities to perform in music class and to the larger school community. Several musical performances occur throughout the school year, incorporating themes or theatrical elements.