It is the goal of the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools to implement a Mariachi Education Program with the objective of providing students of various ethnicities with an exceptional educational experience that would expand their cultural awareness and promote a lifelong appreciation for music. The program would offer students, many of them from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, a high-quality musical experience of a multigenerational tradition rooted in a sound, sequential, standards-based curriculum. Additionally, students would develop sensitivity, understanding, and respect for peoples from a broad spectrum of ethnic-cultural backgrounds.

Program Goals

• Students will gain an understanding of the historical development of mariachi music.
• Students will explore and experiment with different musical styles and techniques to further their understanding of improvisation and musical interpretation.
• Students will gain confidence in their abilities as individual musicians and as members of a group.
• Students will participate in high-quality musical experiences from an established musical tradition.
• Students will gain an understanding of musical form.
• Students will gain and develop a lifelong appreciation of and interest in music.
• Students will develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, and a sense of personal responsibility as they increase their performance skills.

Objectives

• To develop an appreciation for musical form and its development
• To understand regional and historical variations of mariachi music
• To develop the ability to successfully demonstrate a variety of mariachi skills and techniques using appropriate instruments
• To incorporate traditional rhythms used in mariachi music into musical performances
• To increase awareness of the literal and emotional content of music