



Music at Amsterdam School

April/ May 2024

As we enter the final quarter of our school year, it is exciting to share all of the accomplishments of our students in music. Overall, students are always excited to learn more about music and are expressive and enthusiastic with whatever music we are working on .



Music Skills

Our kindergarten students can read and play basic rhythm patterns. We are learning about the staff and doing simple dictation activities. We spend time learning about classical music and have fun singing songs. Some are folk songs, some traditional, and some game songs.

In addition to rhythm notation, First and Second grade students are learning to read/ write pitch notation. We are working hard reading notation as we play or sing accompaniments with our songs. We also practice focused listening activities, identifying tempo, pitch, mood and timbre in classical music.

In third grade, we are learning more about music symbols and notation. They are well practiced in reading and performing more complicated rhythm patterns. We focus also on specific listening skills like note direction, timbre, identifying mood and tempo. This quarter, in addition to preparing songs for the Spring program, we will explore music styles and examples from around the world.



Our 4th grade class loves playing ensemble pieces! We have worked on songs (Alice the Camel, Kumbaya, Wake Me) that have recorder, drums, mallet, voice and various percussion instruments. I like to give students a chance to try different parts of these pieces to experience the different perspectives of an ensemble. We are enforcing our

music reading skills as well. This quarter, we will be discussing the technique and challenges of the different band instruments, to help students decide their instrument for next year.

Our 5th and 6th grade band students are improving by leaps and bounds . I am most impressed with their ability to play a wider range of notes, longer pieces, and complex rhythms.They are enthusiastically working on new challenging performance pieces. We each have a part to play in making our band sound great. It is very beneficial to each student and to our band, when students practice their instruments regularly. There are many techniques and ideas for practicing.

Here are a few:

- Long tones for wind instruments (for breath control)
- Explore range and various sounds with or without reading notes
- Singing parts
- Percussion - work on individual rudiments - rolls, stick patterns
- Reading, clapping new, more complicated rhythms
- Watching tutorials on line on specific instrument
- Playing through band exercises, listening to recording

Our 5th and 6th grade students are very enthused about our spring program and have lots of great ideas to share.



Spring Program May 22

We will have our Spring program on May 22, at approx 1:00 pm at the school. It will be at the north side of the playground, or in the gym, if the weather is rainy. Students will have some wonderful music to share, celebrating our western heritage.

If you have a chance, I recommend <https://www.classicsforkids.com/kids/> for parents and students to explore. It is filled with games, learning, great music and great composers.

We look forward to sharing some wonderful music with you at our Spring Program!

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