



## Music at Amsterdam School

April- May 2022

**Spring Program:** On May 25, we will share our Spring Program with you! We will perform on Wednesday, May 25, at 1:00 pm, at the school. Like last year, we will set up near the playground. In case of bad weather, we will move the program into the gym. The theme of our program is America the Beautiful. We will share wonderful patriotic music, American folk songs, and songs that celebrate the beauty of our land.

### **Class work:**

Students have been making wonderful progress in reading, performing and understanding music! In March, most classes learned about and performed examples of Native American music.

Our 5th and 6th grade bands are sounding great and have shown great progress in ensemble playing. Our 6th grade has focused on ensemble skills with drum circle activities and band. This quarter we will focus on preparing for our performances. We are also exploring the eras and styles of music history. 5th grade will be learning about American Composers this quarter along with singing some great American songs.

Our 4th grade students have made excellent progress this year and are ready to start thinking about their instrument for band next year. I have been demonstrating different band instruments and discussing the pros and cons of each one as well as cost. I will send information with the 4th grade students over the summer to help prepare them for band in the fall. Our 4th and 3rd/4th grade classes are very excited to share some instrumental ensemble pieces on the program. They will be singing too!

In 3rd grade we are focusing on understanding elements of music such as melody, harmony, rhythm and form. We also explore songs to reinforce geography. They are learning about countries around the world, and learning about music from other countries adds to their understanding.

Students in 1st and 2nd grade have worked hard learning to read rhythm and pitch notation. We practice reading, writing, and performing patterns. In addition we have been singing some very fun songs to celebrate Spring.

Our kindergarten students have been learning to develop listening skills and reading rhythm patterns. We practice playing scales on bells or xylophone and accompany our songs with rhythm instruments when we can.

**Resources:** Here is a link to some great information on the benefits of music education, and a link to classicsforkids, a fun site for kids and parents to check out.  
<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/the-benefits-of-music-education>  
<https://www.classicsforkids.com/>

Overall, students have been working very hard this year and have shown great progress. I am very excited to have them share their music with you!  
Feel free to email me with any questions.

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