

Music at Amsterdam School

October/November 2023



We have had a wonderful start to a new year of music at our school. All students are excited and eager to learn more about music!

Kindergarten - 1st Grade

In kindergarten and first grade we learn to use our musical tools - eyes and ears, then hands and voices. We are learning to read rhythm patterns and use movement, singing and listening to understand concepts.

2nd and 3rd Grade

In 2nd and third grades we are practicing basic rhythm and pitch notation. I plan to incorporate more playing skills using our mallet and percussion instruments as the school year progresses. We do lots of singing and movement activities with our songs. I include listening to examples of classical music to introduce students to the amazing world of performance music.

4th Grade

In 4th grade, we start putting our music reading skills to work. Students have their recorders and are eager to showcase their skills. We spend time reinforcing our understanding of music elements- rhythm, pitch, timbre, harmony, melody, form. We are also learning more about music theory, and of course get lots of practice reading notation. We sing also, and have learned some great railroad songs that have taught us a lot about our history. At all levels, I like to include folk songs that are part of our history and way of life as well as songs that correspond to other subjects that students are learning about in their classrooms.

5th band/choir

Our beginning 5th grade band is very enthusiastic ! We have a well balanced ensemble - 3 flutes, 5 clarinets, 5 saxes, 5 trumpets, 3 trombones, 3 basses, and 4 on percussion. They are progressing quickly and can not wait to start practicing holiday music for our Christmas program on Dec 19. When students practice their instruments, it makes a huge difference in our ensemble. **I encourage students to make musical instrument practice part of their weekly routine.**

5th grade also has choir once a week, where we can sing, learn more about classical music and composers and more advanced music theory concepts. 5th and 3rd grade plan to share some special festive songs at our Thanksgiving luncheon.

6th grade

Our 6th grade band is sounding fantastic! They are making excellent progress in their playing skills. They are all expanding their technical abilities, and playing more challenging music. We have already started practicing a full length classical style piece called Ascot Overture. They will share this and other holiday music on our program. With drum circle, we are learning new musical skills, but will also prepare songs for the holiday program.

Upcoming Performances:

- 3rd and 5th grade classes will share a few songs at our Thanksgiving celebration on November 21st .
- Our Christmas Holiday program will be the evening of December 19th at Manhattan Christian School .

Music Resources: Here are some great websites to reinforce music learning

- musictechteacher.com - play music reading games
- Classicsforkids.com - music reading games and composer information
- musick8.com- access to recordings of the K8 songs we do in class.



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