

# Music at Amsterdam School

January - February 2023

Ms. Larios



After a wonderful performance on our holiday program, our 5th and 6th graders are excited to start more new music. Our music reading and ensemble skills overall are improving. In addition to their separate pieces, In the spring we will perform one piece with 5th and 6th combined.

In our 5th grade choir, we will celebrate Presidents and our colorful history in February. In addition, we are learning about tonality and more aspects of music theory. In the 6th grade drum circle, we review and discuss the eras of music history, and we work on ensemble drumming skills.



The fourth graders are becoming more skilled at playing recorders and reading notation. We focus on music theory and gaining a full understanding of the elements of music, such as rhythm and meter, harmony, timbre and form. We also learn about some famous composers as we go.

In the third quarter, we start preparing for band by studying instruments families and understanding playing technique for different instruments. We also sing some great songs and discuss different genres, and learn to analyze music by looking at meter, key, rhythm and mood.



This quarter in third grade, we will explore music styles from around the world, and focus on the basics of reading notation. In both 2nd and 3rd grade classes we practice both rhythm and pitch dictation. It is a great way to hone their listening skills as well as become familiar with music symbols and notation.

In our younger grades, we are doing a variety of activities that help us learn about music. Students have a lot of fun reading and performing basic rhythm notation. We do movements to reinforce things like pitch, tone color and rhythm. I am introducing young students to the mallet instruments, as well as rhythm instruments, so they can learn to accompany the group as they sing.

And we love to express ourselves with singing! Through the winter months we focus on spirituals and American folk music. These are part of our history and I like to share the background of these songs.

### **Benefits of Music**

One important benefit of music is that it helps us express emotions.

By listening to or singing along, songs can provide a release of positive feelings. I love watching the expressions on children's faces when they love the song they are singing or listening to.

Here again is a link to a great sight with more information on the benefits of learning music. Also a link to "classics for kids"- a music education website with lots of great information, recordings and games for students to play.

<https://nafme.org/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/>  
[Important Benefits of Music In Our Schools - NAFME](#)

<https://www.classicsforkids.com/>