



Music at Amsterdam School

October /November 2022

5th and 6th Grade

What an exciting and proactive month of music we have had so far this school year! Our task of getting everyone started in band has been a great success. 5th graders are learning basic technique, and have started playing and reading the first 5 notes on their instruments. 6th graders are very enthusiastic and are already working on full length pieces for performance.

For 5th and 6th grade our focus has been band ensemble skills, but we also are working on other aspects of music in our Friday classes. In 5th grade , we are exploring music theory as well as listening to and singing different styles of music. In 6th we are enjoying drum circle activities and also exploring the major eras of music history.

4th Grade

Our focus in fourth grade has been a strong emphasis on reading music notation, in preparation for playing recorders and mallet instruments as an ensemble. We have also enjoyed some terrific railroad songs and folk songs as we learn about our American history. Soon they will check out a recorder for the school year and can take it home to practice.

3rd Grade

The third grade class has been gaining understanding of the elements of music and applying this to our listening lessons. We also have been enjoying singing some fun songs such as Jambo, Sun Flowers, Whacky song , and Rocky Mountain, to name a few. There are always new songs written for students to learn. 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 they are learning about in their classrooms.

2nd Grade

I am challenging second graders to read more challenging rhythm notation patterns . With body percussion (clap, snap, pat) we can play fun and multilayer patterns which we will soon transfer to mallet instruments. We also explore listening activities and sing some great songs.

Kindergarten and First Grade

In kindergarten and first grade we practice listening skills and are learning to read basic rhythm notation. We enjoy singing seasonal songs, songs about learning and folk songs. Movement activities with our listening and singing are an important way for students to fully understand musical concepts.

Upcoming Performances:

A few of the classes will share songs at our Thanksgiving celebration on November 22nd. Our Christmas Holiday program will be in December . We will have an evening program At Manhattan Christian School and will notify you when the date is confirmed.

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

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