

Music at Amsterdam School

April / May 2023



Here we are, already in the final quarter of the school year! Over the past few months students have been busy learning new skills, exploring new songs, learning music theory, learning about composers, music eras and different styles of music.

We will share some wonderful new music with you at our Spring Program.

The program will be at Amsterdam School on Thursday, May 25. We will start at 1:30, and should be finished by 3:00 pm.

We will plan to play outdoors near the playground, but will move to the gym in case of rain. We invite you to share in our music celebration!



What We are Working on

In kindergarten, students practice listening skills, reading rhythm notation, and a new activity this quarter - pitch dictation - our introduction to the music staff. We love singing folk songs, such as Farmer in the Dale, and Riding in the Buggy, where we can move and act out the words to the songs.

Our 1st and 2nd graders also have written work focusing on basic notation. The correlation between what we see as notation and what we hear is important to understand. They are enthusiastic about singing and using instruments to accompany our songs.

Our 3rd grade is very enthusiastic about learning about composers. In March they learned about Aaron Copland and his music in March, and loved Hoe Down, and Circus Music. In addition to singing, we explore the elements of music through listening, written work and discussion.

Our 4th graders are very busy with playing recorders, singing, learning music theory, and learning about band instruments. They will be well prepared to start 5th grade band in the fall. Students can check out <https://www.classicsforkids.com/music-games/> to improve their music reading skills.

Our 5th and 6th grade band students are working on some exciting new band pieces. The 6th graders are working on “Seven Nation Army”. They love playing it, and they sound amazing! We look forward to sharing a variety of band songs with you. All of the classes will have some wonderful songs to share with you!

Band students' continued practice is very important to our ensembles. We each have a part to play in making our band sound great. Scales, long tones, reviewing our performance pieces, reading new rhythms and playing along with a metronome are beneficial. Percussionists can explore rudiments on snare drums. Overall, I am pleased with their playing abilities and ensemble skills.

Benefits of Music

I would like to highlight one of the benefits of music. **Music is a lifelong skill.** Whether you continue to become a skilled musician, or focus on other things as you get older, music is always there for you. Music helps relieve stress, helps us academically, can help us concentrate, lets us celebrate our traditions, and gives a healthy emotional outlet.

Here is a link to further explore these ideas.

<https://nafme.org/important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/>