

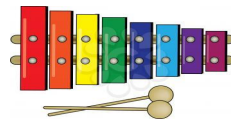
Music at Amsterdam School

February/March 2024

Ms. Larios

Our students at Amsterdam School are very enthusiastic about learning music! As we enter the second half of the school year, we will be working on new techniques and Music goals.

Our kindergarten is already proficient at reading basic rhythm notation. We are now learning the basics of pitch notation. We have been exploring the concepts of pitch, tempo and mood. We do movement and listening activities to enforce these concepts. We are having fun singing folk songs and songs to celebrate special days like Valentines and Presidents Day.



Our 1st and second grade students are getting more experience reading and playing notation on mallet and percussion instruments. We do listening activities which expose them to a lot of classical music. Our favorite activities are singing and playing mallet and percussion instruments.

Our third grade students are learning about all the elements of music: Rhythm, pitch, meter, melody, harmony, form, and tonality are what we concentrate on. A deeper understanding of what makes music is key when they learn and perform more complex pieces in the upper grades. We have been exploring the music of Aaron Copland, singing songs in harmony and celebrating special days with special songs. They really enjoyed singing the song "Presidents' Day" last week!



Our goal in 4th grade is to become fluent at reading notation and performing short ensemble pieces. We sing, play percussion and recorders, often on the same song. I try to give students a chance to try different instruments. We are also starting to study the different instrument families, which will help them to decide what instrument they will play in band next year.

In 5th grade choir, we are learning more music theory and studying music through historic eras. We explore different styles of songs including folk, pop, spirituals. We sang an amazing song with narration about Abraham Lincoln.

In band, students are improving dramatically in their playing and reading skills. Not only their technical skills, but also their listening and awareness of the full ensemble have improved. My hope is that we can combine the 5th and 6th grade bands for one piece at our spring program.

The sixth grade band is sounding amazing! We have started working on our full length pieces for the spring program. The pieces are very challenging and I am sure you will love what you hear. We have also studied and listened to music by Aaron Copland. We will continue to do drum circle activities and polish our ensemble skills.

Special event: For the first time, our 5th and 6th grade students were invited to the Butte Symphony's Children concert. They were so excited to see this concert and were so appreciative. We hope to make it a yearly field trip for Amsterdam 5th and 6th graders. Thank you all for letting it happen! Let's keep on making music!

Students at the Mother Lode anticipating the concert. Our director, Lusi Milan, came over to say hi.



The Butte Symphony on stage



Students unwinding after the concert

