

# Music at Amsterdam School

## October- November 2021



What an exciting musical start to our school year we have had this fall !  
Our band students were ready and eager to begin playing in record time !  
All of our students are eager to learn and are enjoying learning and expressing music together.

### 5th and 6th grade

Band students are working through our Accent on Achievement exercises. 5th graders have already learned to play and read their first 5 notes, and 6th graders are honing their playing skills. We will be starting to work on holiday music this month, which we will share at our Christmas program in December. We will let you know the date and time when it is confirmed. Our biggest challenge is developing strong ensemble skills which involves focused listening, and sensitivity to group goals.

In 5th choir, we work on music theory, and listen to some great classical pieces and learn to analyse them. In addition we sing folk songs from around the world, seasonal favorites like Autumnal Equinox, and pop songs.

On Friday, 6th grade enjoys drum circle games and activities, ending our school week with a fun musical experience. We also use this time for listening activities, singing, ear training, and music theory.

### 3rd and 4th grade

Our 3rd and 4th grade students are reading and playing music as well. 4th graders are playing recorders and 3rd graders are also reading and playing mallet and percussion instruments. In addition, we have worked on songs that celebrate the railroad and westward expansion of the 19th century, as well as patriotic and

seasonal favorites. Our listening focus has been music of the Baroque period, Vivaldi's Autumn in particular.

For 3-6th grade learning to read music fluently is our goal. The following websites offer some fun online activities to help us reach that goal.

<https://www.classicsforkids.com/games.html> Classics for Kids Website

<https://themusiccrew.com/five-online-games-to-help-students-learn-music-staff-notes/>

### 1st and 2nd grade

We are learning basic music concepts including the scale, rhythm patterns, and pitch. Another fun activity we do is movement with classical pieces. Through movement we learn about pitch (hi lo), tempos, and phrasing, to name a few. When we can, we do songs that reinforce other subjects like geography (This Land is Your Land) vowels and reading (Apples and Bananas) weather and the calendar (Otono, Autumn, 30 days has September)

### Kindergarten

Kindergarten classes are learning basics too, like pitch and steady beat. We love game songs with actions like "Pass the Bear", and "Hickory Dickory Dock". We also explore different sounds that we hear every day, and love learning about bird sounds. We have also started to read basic rhythm notation and listen to classical music excerpts.

Performances: We will celebrate our PAC Thanksgiving lunch with a few classes singing some special songs. We will have our Christmas program in December.

I will be available for parent teacher conferences on November 5.

Ms. Larios