



Music at Amsterdam School

April/ May 2025

Spring Program May 14

Our fourth quarter of the year is here and we are excited to be preparing for our Spring program! It will be May 14 at 1:30 pm. We will perform outside , weather permitting and inside the gym if the weather does not permit. Our theme is adventure and fantasy, and students have had lots of great ideas to share on this theme.

Music Skills K-2

Our younger students, K- 2 have been practicing reading and performing notation every week. We also practice listening skills and are learning to identify key components of music. Music involves both reading and writing music notation, and performing with expression and accuracy. Our students love to sing and play instruments!

Music Skills 3-4

With each new song we learn, third and fourth grade students review music elements. We learn to analyze the important things in a song like meter, key, tempo and form. Fourth graders are also getting lots of practice with ensemble skills, an important part of playing in band next year. They learn to be independent in reading different parts and learn to listen to the overall ensemble sounds. This quarter, we will be discussing the technique and challenges of the different band instruments. This should help students to decide their instrument for 5th grade band. I will demo the instruments and discuss technique. It is not too soon to be thinking about what instrument to play in next year's 5th grade band.



5th and 6th Grade

Our 5th and 6th grade band students are preparing some exciting pieces for our program. Although students have been busy with many activities in the last few months, I would ask that they incorporate regular practice into their routine. Improved skills and ability are their own reward, but I would also like to recognize and reward students who put extra effort into practicing. Here are a few ideas for practice:

- Explore range and various sounds with or without reading notes
- Play pieces at different tempos, starting slower.
- Play scales and technical exercises
- Sing parts, then play instrument
- Percussion - work on individual rudiments - rolls, stick patterns
- Reading, clapping new, more complicated rhythms
- Watching tutorials on line on specific instrument
- Playing through band exercises, along with cd

If you have a chance, I recommend <https://www.classicsforkids.com/kids/> for parents and students to explore. It is filled with games, learning, great music and great composers. <https://www.musictechteacher.com/> is also a good website that focuses on music theory. <https://www.musick8.com> also has audio recordings of songs we sing from their Musick8 resource magazine.

We look forward to sharing some wonderful music with you at our Spring Program!

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