

Music at Amsterdam School

October- November 2024



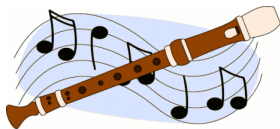
We have had a busy, exciting and productive first quarter. Students are off and running with new music skills. That includes a lot - expression, music notation, listening skills and technique on instruments. We are adding to these skills every week.

Our younger grades K-2 are reading and performing basic rhythm and pitch notation. We use solfeg and basic rhythm notation. This is a huge challenge, since reading notation is another visual and aural language. We use movement and written activities to reinforce musical concepts of pitch, phrasing, rhythm and beat. With our songs we celebrate the seasons, culture, and special days. And lots of fun children's songs! Our favorite songs this quarter: K- All around the Kitchen, 1st -Apples and Bananas, 2nd- 30 Days Has September



Our Third grade is very enthusiastic about music, and they have big challenges ahead. This year we will explore in depth the elements of music: melody, rhythm, form, timbre, harmony, texture and dynamics. We are learning to read and analyze our song notation. This group is very eager to learn! Our favorite song: The Cat Came Back

Our 4th graders have started on recorders and are doing well with reading notation and playing technique. We will also use other instruments and sing to grow our ensemble skills. We are delving into music theory, composers and styles of music. Our favorite songs: Kindness, Rollin On, Rollin to Balboa.



Our 5th and 6th graders are working on playing and improving technique for their instruments. There are lots of challenges with each instrument, and I encourage students to play and practice regularly. Here are a few techniques that are very helpful.

- Play long tones (wind instruments) to develop breath control.
- Read, clap and play new rhythms.
- Play scales and exercises.
- Explore the sounds of your instrument
- Make up exercises for tonguing technique, and exploring more fingerings and sticking patterns for drums.

As we approach the holidays, students will be preparing music to share with you. Our 3rd and 5th grade classes will share a few songs to celebrate our Thanksgiving feast. All classes will be working on songs for our holiday program, which will take place on Wednesday, December 18.

Some great websites to explore:

classicsforkids.com music games, music history and composers

musictechteacher.com music games, theory, and information on instruments

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