

# Music at Amsterdam School

February -March 2025



Students have accomplished so much in the first half of our school year! They gave a wonderful performance at our holiday program and are enthusiastic about preparing for our spring concert. It is such a joy to watch them discover new things about music and to express themselves through music!

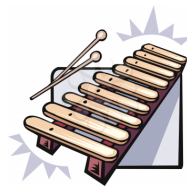
Our kindergarten and first grade students have made great progress this year. They practice reading simple rhythm and pitch patterns and are developing listening skills. There are always fun songs to celebrate holidays, game songs and learning songs.



Our 2nd and 3rd grade students are becoming more familiar with music notation, and are learning to develop specific listening skills. We identify things like tone color, tempo, meter and instruments with listening activities. They sing the songs with enthusiasm, and often ask to take the words home so they can sing it at home. Many of the songs we sing are from Music K-8 magazine. You can access recordings at [MusicK-8.com](http://MusicK-8.com).

Our goal is to practice reading and writing music notation and to sing great songs, and to play instruments such as xylophone, bells, and percussion instruments.

In all grades it is great to find songs that reinforce other areas of learning like weather, math, geography, holidays, history, culture and language. In 3rd-6th grades we will be exploring music from around the world in the upcoming months.



Our fourth graders are gaining skill in music reading and performing. Our goal is to work on ensemble pieces with different instruments - recorders, percussion, xylophones, and singing. We will also be learning more about different band instruments, giving students an idea what instrument to play next year in 5th grade band. Music theory and learning about composers is also a large part of what we are doing.

In 5th grade band and 6th drum circle, we also focus on music theory, music history and different genres of music.

Both 5th and 6th band we are becoming more skilled at playing instruments. Students are working on more challenging band music and more advanced technical studies for their instruments. Weekly practice greatly benefits them as well as our ensemble.

Here are a few ideas for practice:

- Long tones for wind instruments (for breath control)
- Explore range and various sounds with or without reading notes
- Singing parts
- 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, listening to recording

I am so happy to let you know our 5th and 6th grade students are once again going to the Butte Symphony children's concert on Feb. 21st. They will get to see a silent film called The Boat from 1921 accompanied live by the orchestra, as well as other great classical music.

Thank you PAC!

### The benefits of music:

My favorite thing about learning and performing music is that it unites us with a common goal where we can express profound feelings and make wonderful memories .

Links: <https://www.musictechteacher.com> - music theory charts, games and activities

<https://www.classicsforkids.com/> - music theory games, listening games, and biographies of composers

<https://www.musick8.com/> website to access recording of songs from K8 magazine

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Music gives a soul to the  
universe, wings to the mind,  
flight to the imagination,  
and life to everything.

PLATO

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