



Music at Amsterdam School

October- November 2025

Students at Amsterdam school are very enthusiastic about music!. They all love to sing, share ideas and discover new concepts about music!

K-2

In our younger grades, K-2, we have been focusing on reading and performing basic rhythm and pitch notation. We use solfeg (do-re-me) patterns but also are learning the music alphabet. We do a lot of movement activities as well, which help students experience music concepts such as tempo, and pitch. We sing traditional folk songs as well as new songs that teach about many things such as nature, history, geography and culture..



3

Our Third grade class is very happy to have music twice a week. We have been learning about and singing harmony, and exploring unique instrument sounds. We will be exploring music elements throughout the 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 enthusiastic! They will sing for you at our Thanksgiving feast.

4



We have finally started with recorders in 4th grade. Students love playing them, for many it is their first time playing it. We are also getting into more advanced music theory. My goal is for students to be fluent at reading notation, and understanding all the music terms and symbols they see. We will be working on pieces which involve different instruments and voices, building their listening and ensemble skills.

5



We have a very large 5th grade beginning band. They are so enthusiastic about learning their instruments! Each instrument has its own challenges, which we work on during Monday sectionals classes. On Wednesday we have full band, and work on ensemble and playing skills.

On Fridays we have choir. We also work on listening/ theory activities, but we focus mostly on singing. We will work on singing skills and will be preparing a special song for our Thanksgiving feast.

6

Our 6th graders have solid music skills. We have a smaller group this year, but they are excited about working on more challenging band music. On Fridays we do drum circle activities, but also spend time learning about eras of music history, composers, and world music.



Our 5th and 6th graders are working on playing and improving technique for their instruments. Every instrument is challenging in different ways. Regular practice is encouraged and makes the overall experience of band more fulfilling and enjoyable.

These are some practice techniques I recommend:

Play long tones (wind instruments) to develop breath control.

- Read, clap and play new rhythms.
- Work on scales and exercises.
- Sing your part.
- Explore the sounds of your instrument
- Make up exercises for tonguing technique, and exploring more fingerings and sticking patterns for drums.
- Name notes, clap rhythms before playing on instruments.

One of the most positive things about music is that it brings us together. Through preparing and sharing music we create a sense of belonging, and a wonderful sense of community. We will share our music with you on our Christmas program on December 17.



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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