

Hello Meadowbrook Community!

It has been one busy month within the music room for all grade levels. October tends to be one of my favorite times of the year as we are in the heart of fall and all the changing colors on the trees. I'm also finding out that it is quite the busy time of year as we are beginning to prepare for concerts coming up.

The 5th graders have been working very hard at preparing their music for the Veteran's Day Program, which will occur on Friday November 9th at 2:00pm. I've tried to select music that we can approach in a more mature way as musicians, as well as approach the preparation for the program as a choir would do at the middle and high school level. We are beginning to look at the physical sheet music for our choral arrangements and understanding how to follow the vocal lines of our music. Come see their hard work pay off while also honoring the men and women who have bravely served our country!

The 4th graders have been diving into a fusion unit with focus on both rhythm and drumming. We have been reviewing and practicing proper drumming technique, while also examining the rhythms of the music that we are performing. Our other big focus while looking at rhythms are understanding the names of rhythms and how many beats the rhythms typically take up in a measure. We will soon be moving on from this unit though as we need to start preparing for the holiday concert in December.

Our 3rd graders have also been working on rhythms at the beginning of the school year. We have been feeling out rhythms through various different songs and music games that help us understand how certain rhythms play out. The big focus of 3rd grade is understanding how many beats certain rhythms take up and making connections between certain rhythms and their beats. We have been introduced to many new complex rhythms than what we have seen in the past, and are beginning to understand the difference/relationship between beat and rhythm. We will soon be moving on from this unit though as we need to start preparing for the holiday concert in December.

1st and 2nd grade have also had a focus on rhythms within this past month. We began by reviewing what rhythms that we have already covered in music class, and then we began branching out and understanding some new rhythms. Particular focus within these two grade levels has been listening to and visually seeing how rhythms play out, as well as performing the rhythms through various different music song games. I'm hoping to stick with rhythms for a bit longer within this month and then potentially moving onto the four families on instruments in 2nd grade and dynamics with 1st grade.

The kindergarten classes have been hard at work learning through vocal exploration and understanding what different types of voices we have. We have also been learning about keeping a steady beat, through means of movement listening, singing and performing on instruments. We will soon dive into learning about various different musical opposites, such as dynamics (louds and softs) and tempos (fasts and slows).

Thank You!

Mr. Brian Falk

bfalk@waukesha.k12.wi.us