



Meadowbrook Music Class Newsletter



January 2021

Hello Meadowbrook Families,

We've made it to the new calendar year of this crazy school year and we just keep rolling along. I, unfortunately, don't have much to say as the restrictions of this pandemic school year are still upon us. So, I don't have any planned concerts to talk about or really anything exciting from a music standpoint. Like I said, just keep rolling along with the flow of things.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything music related here at Meadowbrook please feel free to reach out to me through my email!

Be kind, and take care!

Mr. Falk

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What's Happening In Music Class? (K-2nd Grade)

Within Kindergarten music, we have been beginning to explore the concept of pitches! This musical opposite mainly focuses on high notes and low notes, but I also like to focus on ascending and descending through the pitches of a scale. Our time in 1st and 2nd grade feels very odd at the moment as this is normally the time in the school year that they would be preparing their concert. Since we aren't able to do one, I decided to focus our time discussing and experiencing different musical elements within class. I'm beginning with Tempo and Dynamics, where we discuss specific music vocabulary words that match different speeds or volumes of music. We then apply those vocabulary words by either moving or performing to music. I do this within a normal year as well, but we certainly have more time than usual to really marinate on these subjects. I will also have us continue with some rhythm performing that we learned already, as this is one of the easiest things we can adapt to during this school year.

What's Happening In Music Class? (3rd-5th Grade)

Within 3rd grade, I am focusing on musical elements of Tempo and Dynamics, very similarly to 1st and 2nd grade. They will most likely get some rhythm performing review throughout these coming months as well. The 4th graders are going to begin really focusing on various musical elements and how music can evoke certain musical element traits. This is to help them prepare for a big music listening test that I have them take for me throughout the school year (as I am tracking their progress). In 5th grade we are exploring the 4 families of instruments, as well as discussing what options that they have for middle school music. It's hard to believe that it's time for them to make decisions for middle school already!

5 Easy Things To Do To Support Your Child In Music

- 1. SING TO YOUR KIDS:** Really! Any song! This is the #1 best thing to do for your kid's musical development. Regardless of your skill level, you are the best model for your child and by doing so, you are modeling an aptitude for music making. Children who have parents who say, "I can't sing" or "I don't sing" are likely to have the same attitude for life! *Singing is a part of life.* We want our children to sing lullabies to their children, and to be able to sing happy birthday to their grandchildren. You don't have to be Adele, Aretha Franklin, or a Luciano Pavarotti. Just sing!
- 2. ASK:** Ask your child what they did in music class! If they say, "nothing" try to dig a little deeper. See if your child can explain an activity that they did or teach you something that they learned. This shows that you are interested in what they are doing in music and that is an important part of their education.
- 3. PLAY WITH SOUND:** Fill a small bin with small instruments to make a musical toy box for "playing music" at home. If you don't have any instruments you can make them! Then let the kids make some noise! There is definitely a difference between noise and music, but many *kids need to experiment* with sound before they can *create music with sound*.
- 4. CHANGE THE STATION:** Try listening to a variety of music. This will broaden your child's taste in music and help to develop their musical ear. There are hundreds of musical genres, so why listen to the same thing all the time?? Please use your discretion when listening to the radio. Be aware of what your kids are listening to. Unfortunately, most of what is on the radio today is inappropriate for children. Instead, try making a Pandora station, or a playlist for your kids. Or if you're thinking a little old-school, go to your local music store and fill a basket with used CD's!
- 5. GO TO CONCERTS:** Turn off the TV and get out there! Whether it's live music at the coffee house, a school event, or a concert in the park, going to a concert is a very exciting thing for kids of all ages. You don't have to pay money to see live music; you just need to know where to look! Check your local newspaper for listings.