



# Meadowbrook Music Class Newsletter



May 2021

Hello Meadowbrook Families,

It looks like that this will be the last music newsletter of the school year. It has truly been a school year of flexibility and thinking outside of the box, but I think that there has been some real progress in many areas of each kids musical development. While we have made progress in certain areas, there were also things that we couldn't do because of Covid limitations and not being in the music room all year. I hope to improve on those other musical skills next school year (Hopefully when things are a bit more normal)!

If you have any questions at all about what is occurring in music class, please feel free to reach out to me via email and I will get back to you as soon as I can!



Be kind, and take care!

Mr. Falk

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## **What's Happening In Music Class? (3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

**Since I could not teach recorder this school year, I decided to look into something else that the students could learn in the meantime. I made arrangements for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn a little bit of ukulele! It won't be enough that your child will come home a rockstar ukulele player, but they should come away with a basic knowledge of a few chords to play along with a few songs. I'm learning a bit myself as I have never taught the ukulele before. However, I'm finding it quite fun, and the students seem to really be enjoying themselves as we learn together! I may just make this a unit at Meadowbrook within the future at some point, but for now we can simply thank Lowell Elementary for letting us borrow the class set that they have.**

**What I'm also liking about learning the ukulele is that it is showing the kids how it takes commitment and determination to properly learn how to perform on an instrument. The ukulele is not an instrument that they can get a handle on by just picking it up, and it is using every part of their brain to put the pieces together and perform!**

### What's Happening In Music Class? (K - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

**Within Kindergarten we are wrapping things up by performing various animal songs, as well as focusing in on their general performing skills. Since I don't have a concert to prepare with them this school year, I decided to teach a song or two that I've used as concert songs in the past and treat the practicing of the song as if we were preparing for a concert. It has been quite fascinating to see the kindergartener's performing skills! In 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade we have been focusing on learning the notes on the Treble Clef Staff through a book series called Freddie the Frog. From here, we will mainly be focusing on some fun things to end the school year on a positive note! 😊**

### 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.