



## Meadowbrook Music Class Newsletter



April 2021

Hello Meadowbrook Families,

We are in the final stretch of the school year, and we are continuing on with our music learning the best way that we can within the classrooms. I don't have much to generally add, but am hopeful for a return to concerts and music performances the next school year! 😊

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)**

**In 5<sup>th</sup> grade we are wrapping up our learning about identifying the notes on both the Treble and Bass Clef Staves. This ends up usually being a fun unit because it involves a lot of review games and practicing of skills that the kids seem to enjoy. I have also decided to teach the Bass Clef within 4<sup>th</sup> grade this year as well with the hope that I can teach certain topics and items next year that I could not touch on this year (due to restrictions). Recorders may not be happening this year with the concerns of spreading air particles, but I hope to teach it next year. As for 5<sup>th</sup> grade recorders, I do apologize that we never had the opportunity to use them at all both either last year or this year. They arrived right before the pandemic hit last school year, and so I will be sending them home with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders soon. The good news is if you have a younger child at Meadowbrook, they will most likely be able to use the recorder you ordered previously within the future! Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have finished up learning about the Treble Clef as well, and are currently learning a little about Bach. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade is also learning to read sheet music through some Handbell performing right now!**

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

**This is an odd time for Kindergarten, as normally this time of year I would be preparing our youngest musicians with their concert. So, right now we are continuing with some long and short sound performing, as well as learning about the percussion and string family of instruments. Coming up in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, we are going to be learning some basic notes on the Treble Clef staff through a book series called Freddie the Frog. This book series reinforces the ability to identify notes through connections to the stories. I also will take this opportunity to have the students perform some fun frog songs that use boomwhackers and a fun jumping frog activity using some toy jumping frogs!**

### 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.