



# Meadowbrook Music Class Newsletter



## September 2020

Hello Meadowbrook Families,

It's good to be back in person seeing all of the wonderful kiddos in the halls and classrooms again! I'm very thankful to (mostly) be teaching in person again, even with all of the new rules in place. With that being said I wanted to inform you of certain particulars happening in music class this year.

As a current district policy, there are no large group gatherings for this school year... which means there are currently no scheduled concerts for this school year at any grade level. It is extremely sad, but there isn't much I can do about it. I didn't want to plan for any concert only to cancel it later on, so we will just have to see how things play out in order to plan for any potential concerts this school year.

You may have heard this already, but both art and music class are currently traveling to the classrooms to limit gathering in common areas (as in the normal art and music room). It is most definitely not the ideal situation, but we are finding ways to make it work! The current district policy is also to limit large group singing (as singing produces more particles within the air). We are allowed to use percussion based instruments as long as they are sanitized between uses. Rest assured, I am finding ways to keep things musical and engaging for each of the student's music education.

One motto that I have adopted going into this school year (that I learned from another brilliant music educator) is "**It's not hard, it's just new**". It applies to so many of feelings that I and I'm sure many of you are feeling with sending your kids to school during a public health crisis. It also applies to our adaptations to new technology programs and just the simple act of learning new material in general. So many things are different right now, but we just need to stay positive and hopeful that there is a brighter future ahead of us to look forward to. We will be enjoying live music together again soon!

Be kind, and take care!

*Mr. Falk*

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### **What's Happening In Music Class?**

**I decided to start the year with very basic music concepts at every grade level this school year. So, every grade level is starting with learning beat in music and how we organize beats into different patterns (meter). From there, 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be diving into learning different rhythms, as well as participating in various music movement activities. In kindergarten, we will be focusing on a bit of vocal development, as well as obtaining a solid foundation of beat before we explore the various musical opposites (louds and softs... fasts and slows... etc.). Please feel free to email me with any questions!**

### **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.