

May 2019

SAVE THE DATES

May 15th

Spring Band Concert
6:30pm

Intermediate Band
Advanced Band
& Mr. Polen's Choir

June 6th

Spring Concert
6:30pm

Grades 2, 4, 6, 8 Choruses
3rd Grade Recorders
Beginning Band

**Remember that
attendance at their
concert is required as
part of each student's
music class grade**

Please see the following
page for more details
about the concerts.

Music Minute

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has been getting to spend more time using instruments and scarves in music class. There are two more main ideas that we will focus on for the remainder of the year. We will learn about the melodic shape of songs, identifying and showing when notes go up and down. We will also focus on the difference between long notes and short notes in music. Both of these topics will include more opportunities to play instruments, use scarves and even play some games.

1st Grade

First grade is continuing with basic notation reading, both rhythmically and melodically. In addition to sol and mi, we will also be introducing la. They also learned about different types of percussion instruments and were able to play a variety of different instruments, some familiar to them and some new, to determine if they are instruments that are played by shaking, thumping or scraping.

2nd Grade

Mr. Maraca has been relaxing in Africa for a while as he knows our second graders are focusing on their songs for the Spring Concert. They are working hard and we will then continue on with our world music studies with Mr. Maraca once we are confident with our concert music. Please remember that attendance at the concert on June 6th is required as part of their music class grade. If they would like to practice *Cornstalk Fiddle and Shoestring Bow*,

they can sing along with the following youtube link. [Cornstalk Fiddle](#)

3rd Grade

Below you will find several YouTube links to help the students practice the song Frodo's BAG for on their spring concert. There are 3 different links. Each takes the song at a different speed. They can start by practicing it at the slower speed titled "Frodo's BAG (-20BPM)" and then when they are confident with it, they can try the other videos. (-10BPM) and full tempo. The full tempo video is quite fast so I definitely encourage them to practice with the slower speeds first. We talked in class about really practicing at home so that we can be ready for their concert on June 6th. Please remember that attendance at the concert on June 6th is required as part of their music class grade. [Frodo's BAG \(-20BPM\)](#) [Frodo's BAG \(-10BPM\)](#) [Frodo's BAG \(Full tempo\)](#)

4th Grade

The fourth graders are working hard on preparing their two songs for the Spring Concert. They will be singing O Salutaris which they all know very well from Mass every Tuesday, but they will also be singing the English translation which is less familiar to everyone. Their second song, Kye Kye Kuleis a fun, African song which will include several fourth graders and a few older students playing percussion instruments as the chorus sings.

5th Grade

Homeroom 200 will be learning about the 12 Bar Blues. They will practice playing the chord progression on

xylophones as well as improvising over the background parts. Homeroom 202 has already finished the 12 Bar Blues, so they will begin learning about different forms of music, such as Theme and Variations and Rondo. We will work to catch Homeroom 200 up with 202 in the next week or two.

6th Grade

It is hard to believe, but I will only be seeing the 6th graders 2 more times before their spring concert. They will be working extra hard on learning their songs for the Spring Concert. Please remember that attendance at the concert on June 6th is required as part of their music class grade.

7th Grade

The 7th graders did a great job performing their Boomwhacker compositions before break. Now they will go back to working in GarageBand to continue their Blues songs that we began a little earlier in the year.

8th Grade

With only 1 or 2 more classes before the Spring Concert, the eighth graders are working hard on preparing their songs for the Spring Concert. Please remember that attendance at the concert on June 6th is required as part of their music class grade.

Beginning Band

The concert on June 6th is approaching fast. I am very excited for the students to share with you what they have been working hard on all year. I am extremely proud of how far they have all come. This is the first time I've ever been able to give the Beginning Band three songs to perform, and the earliest I've ever had a Beginning Band able to completely play their songs before a

concert. Now all that is left is to do some polishing up on some sections that cause a little trouble, and then show off their amazing talents! Remember that the concert is on June 6th at 6:30pm.

Intermediate Band

Our concert is just a week away! May 15th is fast approaching, but I know these students are ready for the concert. They have all been working hard and I feel confident that they will impress everyone in the audience. Please encourage them to practice extra hard in this final week. Sometimes being up in front of the audience makes us nervous and causes us to make little mistakes that we wouldn't otherwise make. So please encourage a little extra practice leading in to the concert on May 15th. The concert begins at 6:30pm, but students should be in the music room at 6:00 so that they can get their instruments warmed up and tuned. They should wear *school appropriate* white shirts and *school appropriate* black or navy blue pants or skirt. If they do not own any white and dark, they may wear their school uniform.

Advanced Band

Just one more week until our concert! I am very proud of how well the Advanced Band has been performing. They are now able to consistently play from beginning to end of all of their songs for the Spring Concert. There is still some polishing left to do in certain spots, so please encourage your children to really practice hard this last week leading in to the concert. May 15th is the big day. The concert begins at 6:30pm, but students should be in the music room at 6:00 so that they can get their instruments warmed up and tuned. They should wear *school appropriate* white shirts and *school appropriate* black or navy blue pants or skirt. If they do not

Spring Concerts

Our Intermediate and Advanced Bands will perform their own concert on **May 15th**. The evening concert begins at 6:30pm, but students should arrive in the music room at 6:00 to get their instruments ready and to warm-up and tune. It is very important that they are on time.

The choruses for grades 2, 4, 6 and 8 will be performing on **June 6th** as well as the 3rd graders playing their recorders and our 4th Grade Beginning Band. As per the student handbook, all students in grades 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 are required to be there as part of their 3rd trimester music grade. I look forward to seeing everyone there! The concert will begin at 6:30pm. More details will be coming soon regarding what time your student should arrive and where they will be meeting with their class. This is also the day of the school art show.

For both concerts, the students performing should wear a *school appropriate* white shirt and either black or navy blue pants or *school appropriate* skirt. No shorts can be worn to the evening concert. If students do not have white and black/navy, they may wear their school uniform. Any student wearing clothing that is not school appropriate will not be allowed to perform which will result in a lower music grade.

own any white and dark, they may wear their school uniform.

