



ARTS TEAM NEWS 2009

Welcome back! The arts team is excited to start the school year at Ronald McNair. We are looking forward to seeing your child sing, play instruments, draw, paint, sculpture, dance, manipulate objects and learn healthy habits.

We would like to take this opportunity to explain how student achievement in the arts will be evaluated. All areas will use the same four point rubric.

SCORE	GRADE	EXPLANATION
4	O	STUDENT DEMONSTRATES COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING
3	S	STUDENT DEMONSTRATES GENERAL UNDERSTANDING
2	N	STUDENT IS DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING
1	N	STUDENT DEMONSTRATES MINIMAL UNDERSTANDING

If you have any questions on your child's grade or grading procedures, please feel free to contact us at Ronald McNair. Below, you will find a summary of the first quarter objectives for Art, Music, and Physical Education. We are looking forward to working with your child this year.



Art with Mrs. Romeo, Mrs. Kelly, and Mrs. Mabry

It's great to be back at McNair Elementary! We are looking forward to an exciting and wonderful school year. Our focus in art will be teaching students about the importance of art as a communication tool by studying master artists' work. Students will also learn about multiculturalism and the function of art throughout history. All grade levels will incorporate the elements of art, such as line, shape, and color, and the principles of design, such as balance, pattern, and emphasis into their projects.

All K through 5 students will create sketchbooks for use throughout the year in art class. Students in the primary grades will focus on learning how to manipulate tools and materials in the art room. Kindergarten will learn how to use scissors, trace, and create frottage. First grade will learn about various cultures and create 3-dimensional masks. Second grade will learn about symmetry and create contour drawings/collages of butterflies.

Third grade students will study various artists who created self-portraits. They will create and write about their own self-portraits. Fourth grade will study photomontage and create their own emotion collage. Fifth grade will learn about landscapes, how artists express themselves, and will create a landscape in the manner of Van Gogh and Kirshner.

Please check your child's schedule for their art day, and have them wear old clothes or clothing that can get messy. We try very hard to keep the students neat as possible, but art materials sometimes get on students' clothing.

We gladly welcome volunteers who would like to help in the art room. Many volunteer opportunities exist in January and February, as we prepare for the annual McNair Art Show on Wednesday, March 3rd. Please consider volunteering a few hours to help get your childrens' art projects ready for the show. See Mrs. Lynch or Mrs. Romeo to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

Thank you so much for all of your help and support. We look forward to meeting you in the near future.



Music with Mrs. Archer and Mrs. McPhee

Welcome to a new year of music at Ronald McNair! Mrs. McPhee is joining us as our part-time music teacher! Her teaching schedule will be Tuesday afternoon and all day on Thursdays. Mrs. McPhee comes to us with lots of experience in elementary music, and she also teaches at Little Bennett Elementary. We are excited to welcome her to our McNair Arts Team!

The first week has been filled with singing, setting routines and basically getting to know each other. The children will be sitting on the floor, so please have your children wear tennis shoes (boots and sandals can be hard to manage sitting cross legged on the floor) and shorts or pants.

Kindergarten will be learning loud and soft sounds. We also will begin to feel and identify a steady and unsteady beat. We will learn the basic skill of holding an instrument until it is time to play, and yes, Mr. Tah and Mr. Ti Ti will come to class to help us learn the basics of reading music (tah equals a quarter note and two eight notes are called ti ti).

First Grade will begin to analyze two music selections to identify if they are the same or different. We will begin to use our good singing voices, and review some musical terms we learned in kindergarten like forte, piano, steady beat, unsteady beat, low, high, etc.

Second grade will be learning about the families of the orchestra to prepare for the Strathmore concert. The children will learn to identify the families of the orchestra by name and sound. We will concentrate on a beautiful singing tone, and second grade will begin to "sight read" music. When new songs are introduced, the children have their own music books to look at and read.

The Third grade will be learning about the form of a song as either verse and refrain or accumulative. They will also listen to music from diverse cultures and begin to describe the tone color of different instruments and why they sound the way they do.

Fourth grade begins their first unit talking about Jazz and some famous musicians like Duke Ellington, Satchmo, and Ella Fitzgerald. We will learn about time signature and how they relate to the strong and weak beats in music. We will then learn to conduct the matching beat patterns for each time signature.

Fifth grade will be expanding their musical knowledge in singing, reading music, music history, names of notes on the staff, and begin to learn their music for the Chorus concert in December. This is a challenging year as we build on the students' current music skills, and it is also a fun year because we can move to higher levels of musical skills in both reading and improvisation.

The Winter Chorus concert date for Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus is Thursday December 3rd at McNair in the gym. Details will come later.

We are very excited about having a wonderful year in music with your children. Please let us know if you have any questions.



Physical Education with Ms. Humphries
And Mrs. Ludwig

The students at McNair have gotten off to a great start in physical education. We are very excited to help your child engage in lifelong learning by developing habits to keep themselves healthy throughout their life.

During the first quarter, kindergarten, first, and second graders will begin to move safely in personal and general space. They will also become familiar and be able to demonstrate the eight locomotor skills. The locomotor skills consist of walking, running, skipping, galloping, leaping, jumping, hopping, and sliding. By the end of the quarter in combination with the above skills, they will be able to move in and identify curved, straight and ziz-zag pathways.

Third, fourth, and fifth graders will be able to execute the skills of dribbling with their hands and feet as well as shooting with their hands and feet. We will use these skills in modified game situations that resemble basketball and soccer. They will also start their fitness unit where they will learn how to take their pulse and be able to identify and define the health related components of fitness.

Please help your child remember their physical education day. It is very important to wear sneakers to class. Any student that does not have proper shoes on will not get to participate in class that day. This year will be a year of fun and fitness! If you have

any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for supporting the physical education program at McNair!