

Music MP 1

Dr. Ronald E. McNair Elementary



Welcome to Music! Ms. Booth and Mrs. McPhee are very excited about this year. Let's look at what we will be learning in Marking Period 1.

Kindergarten

The musical concepts we will be studying this marking period are musical opposites such as loud vs. soft and fast vs. slow. Students will also explore using their voice by singing and using speech, and practicing steady beat. Singing is a big part of our music classes and the icons presented to learn the words of songs will begin the foundation of learning how to read music. We have a lot of fun in Kindergarten music and we will learn a lot!

First Grade

First grade music class builds on skills that were accomplished in Kindergarten. The students will be encouraged to make personal connections to the songs we sing and perform throughout the marking period. Students will be working on performing steady beat in both simple and compound meters, identifying the melodic contour of a song, and performing long and short-short rhythms. The students will review loud vs. soft, fast vs. slow, and will be able to identify the unpitched instrument families such as woods, metals, shakers, scrapers, and drums.

Second Grade

Second grade music begins with establishing routines and procedures on how to care for our large instruments like the xylophone. Students will begin reading pitches on the music staff and will be encouraged to make personal connections to the songs we sing and perform throughout the marking period. Students will also begin using unpitched percussion instruments to accompany themselves during a song. The concepts we will learn during this marking period are feeling strong and weak beats, reading two notes rhythms tied together to make one sound, performing music vocabulary words like piano vs. forte and allegro vs. lento, and learning to identify the four families of the orchestra by sight and sound. In November, students will have the opportunity to attend a concert at Strathmore where they will hear an orchestral concert culminating all the fun information they will have learned about the orchestra.

Third Grade

Third Grade music class begins with students analyzing the music they are hearing and performing using new music vocabulary. We will sing and perform many songs with different dynamics and tempos. The students will be encouraged to make personal connections to the songs we sing and perform throughout the marking period. Students will use both pitched and unpitched percussion instruments such as the xylophone and drum to accompany themselves in a song. The vocabulary words for this marking period are pianissimo vs. fortissimo and largo vs. presto. We will be reading four sixteenth notes, a whole note, and half rest, to expand our rhythm reading skills. We will also begin learning about rhythmic ostinato. Ostinato are repeated patterns in music. Students will hear and perform ostinatos using their voices and unpitched percussion instruments.

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade students will begin analyzing musical selections they hear and will perform selected pieces using new musical vocabulary. We will sing a variety of songs, many from other cultures reflecting the diversity of our school population. The students will be encouraged to make personal connections to the songs we sing and perform throughout the marking period. Rhythm reading will begin to include different combinations of the four sixteenth notes in one beat, and the students will learn and perform ostinatos that are both rhythmic and

melodic to enhance pieces of music. The music vocabulary we will concentrate on learning are mezzo forte and mezzo piano.

Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade students will expand their musical knowledge to include harmony and chords. We will continue to sing a variety of songs with new challenges of reading the “road map” when reading a music score. The students will be encouraged to make personal connections to the songs we sing and perform throughout the marking period. The students will be performing many activities to learn about Jazz and Blues music, including performing the 12 bar Blues. In October, the students will go to Strathmore for a Jazz concert and will bring with them their knowledge they have learned in music class. As we develop stronger singing techniques, we will talk about breath support, posture, phrasing, and expressive qualities in music to encourage good singing skills. Fifth grade students will also have the opportunity to participate in a voluntary fifth grade chorus. These rehearsals will take place during the student work day and there will be a winter concert in December where the students in band, orchestra, and chorus will perform the pieces they have learned.



Ms. Booth (Full-Time)
Mrs. McPhee (Part-time)