

The Music Monthly

May 2019

Nativity of Mary Catholic School-Bloomington, MN

Miss Emma Shukle

Welcome once again to the Nativity of Mary Music Newsletter where you will learn about all things music from PreK-8. In music classes in Kindergarten through 4th Grade, students learn music concepts and skills through The SongWorks Approach, in which I am certified in. These strategies prepare students for middle school ensembles where students use standard notation, time signatures and key signatures in creating a unified ensemble. The Principles of Teaching in Learning in SongWorks are:

1. The major goal of music study is the development of a responsiveness of music.
2. The musicality that is critical to music performance is just as important in music study.
3. The fundamental skill in music behavior is listening.
4. The way music sounds rather than how it looks guides the selection and presentation of patterns for study.
5. A distinction exists between skills and concepts that are musically easy and musically simple.
6. Song provides direct involvement for making music and studying sound relationships.

In this newsletter you will find information on what's happening in music class, as well as important events and concert dates. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 952-881-8160 ext. 210 or at eshukle@nativitybloomington.org

Enjoy as you “sing or play” your way through the music newsletter!



Beauty and the Beast Jr.

Middle School theatre students gave an outstanding performance of “Beauty and the Beast Jr.” this month! I am so proud of all the work they put into learning their lines, music, choreography, and how they truly grew in becoming their characters!

Kindergarten-2nd Grade

In Kindergarten-2nd grade we have been working on independent singing, social skills through singing games, moving in the classroom space, studying songs through ideographs, studying Mi Re Do patterns in songs, using instruments and hand signs, and using Du and Du De Gordon Rhythm syllables. We are also studying dot scores for rhythm. We are continuing to study composers as well. We have been identifying notes on the staff by studying through the approach of “hand staff,” and labeling “Do” with the “Do sign,” then leading to identifying other solfa syllables on the staff. The 2nd graders have also been learning about ledger lines, notes above or below the staff. Kindergarten is also preparing for their Graduation this month!

3rd Grade/4th Grade

In 3rd Grade, we have been composing and arranging using ideographs, and studying rhythm through dot scores, as well as reviewing past songs, and learning new songs. We have been reviewing the lines and spaces of the Treble Clef and making connections to the scores of songs learned in music class.

In 4th Grade we have learned the fingerings for BAG and Low EDC on the recorder. We are also reviewing and learning a variety of songs at the intermediate level. We will continue to work on independent singing, inner hearing, the whole of a song through singing games, Mi Re Do, Mi So Do, So La Do patterns, playing xylophones, Gordon rhythm syllables (Du and Du De), and the lines and spaces of the Treble Clef. We will

continue to work on music literacy through ideographs and song dot scores.

5th Grade Choir

5th grade choir has been working on building harmony through rounds and ostinato patterns. They have been working on repertoire for school Mass, and have been building their music literacy by reading musical scores. The 5th grade choir will be singing for the last 8th Grade Mass on Thursday, May 23rd!

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Bells and Choir

Middle school students have been working on music literacy by reading scores, both choral and handbell. The students have been working on independent singing, and have been working on singing in harmony. They build harmony through ostinato patterns, rounds, and reading their choral scores. They have been learning to play as a handbell ensemble and fine tune their rhythm skills especially. They have been working on spring concert repertoire for their May concert. The middle school ensembles also rehearse repertoire for school Mass. The Spring Choir and Bell concert is on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the church. This will be their last performance of the school year.

Please note that all concerts are required for ALL students. If you have a conflict with a concert date, you must contact me directly.

Please also know that certain conflicts, such as sports games or practices will not be marked as an excused absence.

“My heart will be blessed with the sound of music, and I’ll sing once more.” –The Sound of Music

