

# Music MP 1

## Dr. Ronald E. McNair Elementary



Welcome to Music! We are so excited to be in our new rooms. They are beautiful and the students are enjoying the extra space. Mrs. Archer and Mrs. McPhee are very excited about this year. Let's look at what we will be learning in Marking Period 1. The Measuring Topics you will see on the children's report cards this marking period are Performing Music and Responding to Music.

### Kindergarten

Kindergarten students will start by learning classroom routines. Where to sit, what will happen in music class, and following directions help the students to feel comfortable and adapt to being in school for the first time. The musical concepts we will be studying this Marking Period are loud/soft, fast/slow, and steady beat. Singing is a big part of our Music classes in Kindergarten 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 learn a lot at the same time!

## **First Grade**

First Grade Music 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, The concepts we will be learning are Steady beat, Unsteady Beat and No Beat. We will also be reading Tah and Tee Tee rhythms (calling them Long, short short ). The children will review loud/soft, fast/slow, and we will identify the unpitched instrument families as woods, metals, shakers and scrapers, and drums.

## **Second Grade**

Second Grade Music also begins with establishing routines and procedures in a new space. Singing songs by reading from the music staff is a new challenge to our students. The students will be encouraged to make personal connections to the songs we sing and perform throughout the marking period. 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/forte and allegro/lento, and learning to identify the four families of the orchestra by sight and sound. In the middle of November the children will have the opportunity to attend a concert at the Strathmore theater where they will hear an orchestral concert culminating all the fun information they will have learned about the orchestra.

## **Third Grade**

Third Grade Music will begin to analyze the music they are hearing and performing using music vocabulary, and 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. The vocabulary words for this marking period are pianissimo/fortissimo and largo/presto. We will be reading four 16th notes, a whole note and half rest to expand our rhythm reading skills. Ostinato is a repeated pattern in music. The children will hear and perform ostinatos mainly emphasizing rhythmic ostinatos.

## **Fourth Grade**

Fourth Grade students will also analyze music selections they hear and perform using a much broader vocabulary list of words and more depth in their understanding of how music is created and performed. 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 16th notes in one beat, and the students will learn and perform ostinatos which creates independence in reading and performing 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” to read 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 doing many activities to learn about Jazz/Blues and the 12 bar Blues. At the end of October, the students will go to the Strathmore for a Jazz concert to cumminate what 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.

Thank you for trusting us with your children. We are so proud of how willing McNair students are to learn in our music program. Mrs. Archer is here full time so you can find her in the beautiful new music room. Mrs. McPhee is here on Mondays in the new Dual Purpose Room. Please let us know if you have any questions. We are ready for a great year of music!



*Mrs. Archer*  
*Mrs. McPhee*