



“Notes” from Music Class

Dear Parents,

It’s hard to believe that the first quarter of the school year is nearly over! The music room has been busy and bustling as always. The first quarter is a great time for students of all ages to review and freshen up their musical skills.

Kindergarten students have been learning about how their voice works while singing folk songs, farm songs, and songs for prayer. They are also learning to play rhythm sticks. Soon, we will begin learning some basic rhythm patterns and playing them on various classroom instruments. We will also learn Thanksgiving and Christmas songs.

Students in the **primary grades** spent the first quarter learning about different dynamics, rhythm patterns, and pitch patterns. First graders have learned how to tell the difference between the rhythm and beat and listen for music getting faster or slower and louder or softer. Second graders learned about higher, lower and repeated pitches, how to create a rhythm pattern, and how to use the hymnals at mass. Third graders learned rhythm patterns including sixteenth notes, how to sing in a round, and how to identify AB and ABA form in music.

The **intermediate grades** have had a busy start to the school year! Fourth graders studied strong and weak beats, movement to music, call and response form, and vocal timbre. Fifth graders studied the pentatonic scale, vocal timbre, harmonies, and ostinato patterns. Both grades have been working on Listening Logs through our Composer of the Month program.

Junior high students have been studying dynamic markings and how to perform them. They have also been learning how to write out rhythms in a given time signature. We also learned some fun vocal warm-ups. Just recently we have started work on our music for the Christmas concert! All grades have been spending time on their Listening Logs for the Composer of the Month.

You may have heard about our **Composer of the Month** program. Each month we spend some time focusing on a composer; we learn about their life and music. September’s composer was John Philip Sousa, the famous band leader of the U.S. Marine Corps Band. In October, we studied Edvard Grieg, a Norwegian composer who composed the music for the play Peer Gynt. All students in grades 1-8 study the Composer of Month appropriate to their age level.

As we approach the second quarter, the biggest thing on our minds is the **Christmas Concert!** This year, the concert will be held on Wednesday, December 17 in the church. Grades 1-8 will all have a part in the concert. As we get closer to the date, be sure to ask your son or daughter about his or her class’ songs!

Thanks for a great start to the year, and your continued support and appreciation of music!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cervelli