



MUSIC – 2nd TRIMESTER
Mrs. Jennifer Cunningham

News from the Music classroom,

7-8th graders have spent the first few weeks of the trimester studying the composer, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart culminating with a Mozart "Rap." The class was broken up into 4 groups and asked to write a rap song which included five things they learned about Mozart. Every student had to perform, either vocally or rhythmically. It was a great success! What a creative group of kids! Throughout the rest of the trimester, 7th/8th graders will review notes in the bass clef, learn about ledger lines and how to identify the notes, study dynamic and tempo markings, and begin to learn the major keys.

5-6th graders will continue their work learning the notes in the treble and bass clef. They are solidifying their knowledge of meter and understanding the value of notes in different time signatures. We continue to work on music which is sung at the school masses to improve their ability to follow the melody and move with ease between staves and repeat signs. They show a great desire to understand and "read" music.

3rd/4th graders are enthusiastic singers, conductors, and conga players. They usually arrive at class earnestly asking "*Mrs. Cunningham, can I conduct today?*" or "*Mrs. Cunningham, can I accompany the class on the conga drums?*" Class time goes by quickly as we make an effort to let everyone take a turn and play their role. They continue to learn the value of different notes in 4/4 meter and they are beginning to learn note names with the goal of translating this to the keyboard. They love to sing the hymns from mass and most of the students in this class are also in **Honors Choir**.

1st/2nd graders will continue their work echo-singing or "call and response" - repeating what I sing so they train their ear to match pitch with my voice. Ask them to sing "*My oh My*" as the leader with you echoing their voice and see if they can remember all the verses. We are starting the process of reading music by first making them "read" aloud (not sing) the verses of songs and hymns. Our 1st/2nd grade has many excellent readers and they are all enthusiastic to have a turn. Once they can follow the words of the verse, they then will pair them with the notes. They love to sing and almost every student in the class wants to be a song leader or conductor.

Kindergarten continues to explore the "treble" and "bass" parts of their voices. We work on echo-singing to train their ears and voices to match pitch with mine. They are learning to keep a steady rhythm and to mimic the "tempo" I am creating. They are learning to sing vocal warm-ups *a cappella* (without accompaniment) so they can move their voices up and down the scale by half steps. All of the students in the class are enthusiastic and quick learners and it seems each week they conquer a new warm-up or song.

