THE HALLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC AT THE BARRON SCHOOL

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WHAT IS MUSIC?

MUSIC IS....LISTENING – being exposed to the many sounds and styles of music
MUSIC IS....TEMPO – how fast or slow the music sounds
MUSIC IS.... RHYTHM – the beat or pulse of the music
MUSIC IS.... DYNAMICS – how loud or soft the music sounds
MUSIC IS....HISTORY – appreciating music heritage and the music that effects our society
MUSIC IS.... PLAYING - instruments, recorders, African drums
MUSIC IS....PITCH – how high or low the music sounds (DO RE MI FA SOL LA TI DO)
MUSIC IS....SINGING
MUSIC IS....DANCING – square dancing, colonial contra dancing, ballroom dancing

Curricular Assessment:

Students at the Barron School in grades 1 – 5 are assessed in Music during the second and third trimesters. Students are assessed on music concepts and skills from the National Music Standards Curriculum. They are also assessed on their behavior and participation in music class. Parents are urged to read over their child’s assessment to see what he or she is accomplishing in music class.

When teaching children to read and understand music notation and rhythm, I use a sequential approach beginning in the first grade. At this time, students are introduced to a basic rhythmic note reading system using syllables known as Ta and TiTi. Students will be able to read, write and perform basic patterns of rhythm. In second grade students reinforce their rhythmic reading abilities and are introduced to the notes on the music staff. Reading notes on the staff
includes developing spatial awareness, sequencing and decoding. Students will be able to recognize and name the notes on the music staff. In third grade, students will transfer the rhythmic Ta and TiTi to the real names of music notes (quarter, half, whole and eighth notes). Using mathematical skills, they will understand the rhythmic beat value of each note and be able to count and clap musical rhythms. Students will also learn to improvise and perform rhythms on African drums. Students will continue to reinforce their abilities to read notes on the music staff. In fourth grade, students will be introduced to a musical instrument known as a recorder. Playing the recorder is a wonderful introduction to playing a band instrument in the fifth grade. When playing the recorder, students will utilize all the music theory that has been taught since first grade. Students always look forward to playing these instruments. In fifth grade students will have the opportunity to play various woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments in our school band. Band is held once a week during the school day. Students in grades three – five also have the opportunity to learn to play a violin, viola or cello. Lessons are given after school at one elementary school, two days a week. Students are bused by the school district to that school for their lessons. An instrument rental night for Band and String instruments will take place at the beginning of the school year. Students will also continue playing their recorders in the fifth grade.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS IN MUSIC AT THE BARRON SCHOOL:

Fourth and fifth grade students are given the opportunity to be part of our amazing chorus which meets once a week during the school year. The chorus performs a winter and spring concert each year. Third graders participate in an Artist in Residence African Drumming and Dance program in March. Music appreciation is enhanced as students learn about Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, The Beatles and Jazz music. Integrated art and social studies activities are often included in the music lessons, giving students a wide opportunity of ways to participate and learn about music. Students will also experience many movement activities, including square dancing, and a large variety of singing opportunities.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with your son or daughter. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year regarding your child’s music instruction, please feel free to contact me.

Music

Gives A Soul To The Universe
Wings To The Mind
Flight To The Imagination
And life To Everything