



# Music Newsletter

## Pre-Kindergarten

Dear Parents and Guardians of Pre-Kindergarten Students,

Welcome to your child's first year of Music at P.S. 116. I am fortunate enough to have each and every Pre-Kindergarten class, and your students are off to a great start.

Pre-Kindergarten music class introduces students to the elements of sound and helps them to hone their listening skills. Some of the highlights include:

- ♪ Circle songs: Students participate in singing as a member of a larger group by passing instruments, stuffed animals, and "special friends," all while singing.
- ♪ Finger plays and action rhymes: Students enjoy learning new songs by listening to, watching, and joining in song tales.
- ♪ Movement: Each class offers an opportunity for students to get up and moving while exploring beat, meter, and rhythm.
- ♪ Songbooks: Students will expand their musical repertoire by learning new songs through picture books.

Thank you very much for your interest and support. I look forward to continue working with your talented and enthusiastic musicians throughout the semester and for years to come!

Elliot Iocco, Music Teacher



# Music Newsletter

## Kindergarten

Dear Parents and Guardians of Kindergarten Students,

Welcome to your child's first year of Music at P.S. 116. I am fortunate enough to have each and every Kindergarten class, and your students are off to a great start.

Kindergarten music class explores the world of music from every angle – singing, playing instruments, listening, moving, and even drawing music. Some of the highlights include:

- ♪ Classroom instruments: Students are introduced to tambourines, hand drums, maracas, rhythm sticks, bells, triangles, and more, and have opportunities to play each.
- ♪ Finding your voice: Students have countless opportunities to sing as part of a group and solo to better understand how their voices function as an instrument.
- ♪ Music games: Children learn through play, and our circle games provide built-in opportunities for taking turns, following directions, boosting confidence, and self-assessment.
- ♪ Sing alouds: Children love being read to, and books that can be sung are particularly engaging.
- ♪ Movement: Every music class allows at least 15 minutes of movement, which is not only fun, but also necessary.
- ♪ Listening activities: Students develop a critical ear for music through a variety of listening activities – some of which are led by the students themselves, some that are led by me, and some that are a recording. We begin to discuss form, tempo, dynamics, and other musical features.
- ♪ Steady beat: Opening routines at the beginning of each music class allow the students to practice finding the beat of the music while singing, an important skill for the future development of the musician.

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Elliot Iocco, Music Teacher

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**A note about Assessment:** We believe that every child is a natural musician. Grading is not based on musical ability; rather, it is based on understanding of techniques and concepts, execution of techniques and concepts, effort, and personal expression.



# Music Newsletter

## Grade 1

Dear Parents and Guardians of 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students,

Welcome to another year of Music at P.S. 116!

First grade music class furthers the musical exploration and concepts introduced in Kindergarten and stresses making music as a member of a larger group. Some of the highlights include:

- ♪ Songs, songs, songs: Students begin to read song lyrics from charts (often in foreign languages), which allows them to participate more actively in music making.
- ♪ Self-led activities: Student-led games and partner activities provide opportunities for students to gain independence and problem solve with their classmates.
- ♪ Introduction to musical notation: Students are introduced to musical symbols, especially quarter and eighth notes.
- ♪ Responding to music in a variety of ways: Students move to music, identify emotional implications, and understand how music fits into the world's culture.
- ♪ Creating and composing music: Students create short compositions based on chance.
- ♪ Orff instruments: Xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels are the main instruments of study.
- ♪ Rhythmic literacy: Students demonstrate their understanding of beat, tempo, and rhythm, and that music exists in time.

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# Music Newsletter

## Grade 3

Dear Parents and Guardians of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students,

Welcome to another year of Music at P.S. 116!

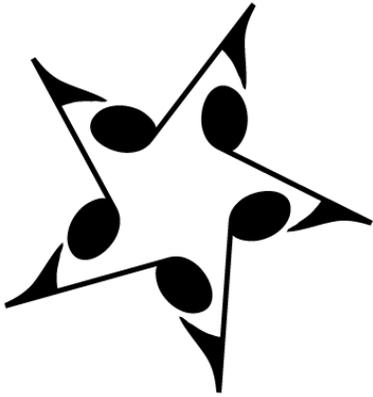
Third grade music class focuses heavily on music history – concepts introduced by works of the masters – plus instrument families and musical terminology. Some of the highlights include:

- ♪ Rhythm: Students read, play, compose, manipulate, teach, and move different rhythms. They can articulate the difference between steady beat and rhythm and explain how it fits into meter.
- ♪ Timbre: Students can describe and identify the unique timbre of each classroom instrument.
- ♪ Instrument Families: Students study in detail the four instrument families and create a project in which they demonstrate and present their expert knowledge of one of their families.
- ♪ Building music vocabulary: Students use musical terms whenever possible as they immerse themselves in daily activities that make use of terms like pitch, meter, tempo, dynamics, form, etc.
- ♪ World Music: Students learn about the music from other cultures and discover the instruments unique to each country's musical style.
- ♪ Jazz: Students study the elements of the popular genre of music by hearing representative works, learning about the masters, and improvising.

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Elliot Iocco, Music Teacher

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# Music Newsletter

## Grade 4

Dear Parents and Guardians of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

Welcome to another year of Music at P.S. 116!

Fourth grade music class builds on your student's musical independence and shifts the focus to the student as a *performer*. Singing, playing, describing, analyzing, and composing are just a few of the many goals. Some of the highlights include:

- ♪ Recorder: Students will spend several weeks learning the basics of the recorder, a popular classroom instrument that prepares the student for further instrumental study.
- ♪ Composition: Students become the composer as they create pieces for rhythm band, Orff ensemble, and holiday-themed songs.
- ♪ Act-outs: Students have a brief unit of study, especially around the holidays, introducing them to the musical stage and allowing them a chance to tap into their natural desire for dramatic play.
- ♪ Rhythm and pitch: Students further their knowledge of rhythm and pitch and now understand how the two work together to create an infinite number of songs.
- ♪ Treble staff: Students can read the treble staff pitches, plus ledger lines, with fluency.
- ♪ Music Ace®: Students interact with music theory and test their knowledge using an engaging computer program called Music Ace.

Thank you very much for your interest and support. I look forward to continue working with your talented and enthusiastic musicians throughout the semester and for years to come!

Elliot Iocco, Music Teacher

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# Music Newsletter

## Grade 5

Dear Parents and Guardians of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

Welcome to the final year of Music at P.S. 116. Your students have spent many years becoming fine musicians.

Fifth grade music class is an opportunity for students to learn songs to perform at their graduation. There are also weekly opportunities for students to perform for their peers and receive feedback, as well as observe other performers from around the country, thanks to the wonders of technology. Some of the highlights include:

- ♪ **Showcase:** Students sign up to perform a song, on an instrument, an original work, or in a group. Classmates will give written and verbal feedback.
- ♪ **Chorus:** A select number of students will sign up to be a part of the school's only singing ensemble and perform throughout the year.
- ♪ **Graduation songs:** Students will learn the school song, The National Anthem, and a few pop songs to perform at their commencement.
- ♪ **Video Showcase:** Students will have an opportunity to create and defend their own musical opinions by watching videos of kids from around the country (and world) engaging in music.
- ♪ **Loose ends:** Because some kids receive more or less Music than others (due to scheduling), students have one last opportunity to recap the basics of music, and address musical concepts still unfamiliar.

Thank you very much for your interest and support. I wish your student much success and many musical endeavors for years to come!

Elliot Iocco, Music Teacher

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