

October Music Newsletter

From Mr. Nollan

My Deep Hope for my students is that they would passionately pursue the development of their unique skills and abilities for the purpose of serving God and others.

“My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.” – Psalm 57:7

Hello again, Three Points Families! Teaching Music here at BCS continues to be a pleasure, and we continue to make music even in the face of so many restrictions. Although the music program has received adjustments, hearts remain steadfast and we continue to praise God in Music class. Here is a peek into what we have been working on through the month of October:

Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners are learning to independently create musical vocal sounds, chant rhythmically, make rhythmic movements, and explore their vocal range through humming. They are making progress, and I enjoy seeing the excitement in their eyes when they come to Music class.

Chants and rhythms learned: Two Little Apples / Someone Special Gets the Drum / I Think Music's Neat

First Grade

The First Graders are exploring their vocal range with the slide whistle game, repeating pitches using humming and xylophones, and working on rhythmic skills through games like “Hickory Dickory Dock” and “Moving High and Low”.

Chants and rhythms learned: Hickory Dickory Dock / Cowboy Joe / I Think Music's Neat

Second Grade

The Second Graders have learned several different musical techniques this month. Half notes, layering, pieces of the major scale, and dynamics like “forte” and “piano” are just a few. They are always ready and willing to dive into music. They have had the most changes due to our new restrictions but are doing fabulously with the changes.

Chants and rhythms learned: Three Little Muffins / Autumn Treats / Here Comes Jackie

Third Grade

The Third Graders are learning various note types and solfege notes, like “ta” and “ti-ti” with their quarter notes and eighth notes. They have also gone over different musical form types, such as “AB” form. Towards the end of the month, they practiced improvising rhythms for each other on conga drums!

Chants and rhythms learned: Mary Lost Her Coat / A-Rig-A-Jig-Jig / Bottle of Pop

Fourth Grade

The Fourth Graders have really gotten into the thick of things, now learning the notes on the staff. They are busy remembering the order of lines and spaces (EGBDF, FACE) on the staff, as well as humming songs and rhythms on their “hand-staff”. They have also been doing lots of humming and rhythmic repetition activities.

Chants and rhythms learned: Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum / Get Down / The Staff has Five

Fifth/Sixth Grade Band and Choir

Due to the changes for band and choir classes, both Band and Choir classes have shifted to a new musical curriculum. Although Band students are unable to play instruments and Choir students are unable to sing at school, I have kept music making and learning to read music a priority in these classes. For now, we are using the Boomwhacker Ensemble, which is a percussion group using pitched plastic tubes. Pictured to the right, each tube is set to a specific note. When each student has one tube, different songs can be performed using combined rhythms. Right now, all the groups are working on the percussion arrangement of Deck the Halls. This has shifted the focus in these classes away from note reading and tone quality and much more towards rhythm. The skills they are learning now will come in handy when we eventually switch back to regular Band and Choir. The students seem to really be enjoying this change.



Conferences

Similar to BCS classroom teachers, I will offer and host parent-teacher conferences digitally. My schedule will be set up via Booking. If you would like to schedule a timeslot with me, simply use this [link](#). Since I teach all grades, I will need to make my conferences first come, first serve. Please feel free to email me at daniel.nollan@bellevuechristian.org with any questions you have.

Thank you and have a fantastic week!

Daniel Nollan

Elementary Band/Music Teacher

BELLEVUE CHRISTIAN | WITH PURPOSE

Three Points Elementary and Mack Campuses

360.810.0078

www.bellevuechristian.org