

A "Special" Update



ART Education

We are having a wonderful beginning to the 2017-18 school year. Students have constructed portfolios and completed their first projects. Each grade level has drawn a self portrait, that reflects "Who I am". Students were encouraged to draw themselves in a setting that represents the things that they enjoy and care about. All students practiced using placement of facial features and used figure drawing models. I am quite pleased with the level of self pride and growth mindset. Students are now completing their next assignments. Grade 6 is completing an anatomy still life drawing of a human Skull and soon we will start investigating Masks of the world. Grade 5 students are making clay sculptures of sugar skulls to go with the Spanish class lessons featuring the Mexican Celebration of Life "the Day of the Dead". Grade 3 and 4 are drawing and painting sugar skulls. Next we will begin to explore the 18 independent "Creativity Centers" around the Art Room where they may work alone or with a partner at a center of their choice. These centers include a variety of Drawing activities, including Architecture, Fashion, and Vehicle Design. Other centers are geared around building activities that engage high level thinking skills and problem solving.

You can preview grade level assignments through the school website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us/smart-room/>

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Library

- ★ The Library has had a very busy start to the school year! As you know, in September we held our Fall Scholastic Book Fair and it was a huge success! Thanks to your support we made \$14,028 in sales and 50% of that amount comes back to our Library!
- ★ Our year long theme in the Library is *kindness* reflected from the popular book, *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. For the month of October, I am running a contest in which students can perform an act of kindness, write about it on the form I provided them and return it to me by October 31st. Then they will be entered to win two passes from the AMC movie theater to hopefully watch the *Wonder* movie coming out on November 17th!
- ★ We are excited to have new Library pets...10 hermit crabs!
- ★ Last week students worked together to create a Halloween story, play, poem or song to share this week during a Share & Scare in our Haunted Library. It has been wonderful to watch the students work so well together and I have thoroughly enjoyed watching all of their performances!
- ★ I will gladly accept any book donations throughout the year to grow our library and also help supply books for another *free book* giveaway event for all of our students.
- ★ We will continue to learn something new each week, all while having fun and being kind! Feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns at ligameris@eastgreenwich.nj.us
- ★ -Stacey Ligameri, Librarian

Physical Education

For the first 2 and a half months of school, Ashley Snyder is our interim teacher for Diane O'Malley. Diane O'Malley will be back in November. The students are off and running to start this school year. In September, we played a lot of the students' favorite games such as kick ball, wall ball, and basketball. We tie those activities in with our recess activities unit,; in this way all students know and understand how to play each activity being offered during recess. We also just completed our introduction to health, soccer, and fitness testing. Thank you all who volunteered to help us at the JDRF walk. The walk was Friday, October 27th. JDRF gives the school 10% back of our school's total, which we use to fund field day.

We hope you have a wonderful Fall. Any questions please contact us.

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General Music



In music we jumped right into learning at the start of September! I was very excited to see all of the returning students and welcome new third graders into my classroom.

Third grade began by reviewing the basics! By doing so, we start learning the story of "Music Street," created by Lorna Zemke that takes the entire year to complete. The story helps students learn more about solfege pitches and melodic terminology in a sequential manner. The kids love it! With this, we have already learned a few melodic solfege syllables and basic rhythm values to sight sing from the music staff. We also completed a rhythmic composition and performed them on instruments!

Fourth grade is all about learning the recorder! In the beginning of the year we learn the ins and outs of music notation. We started off with reviewing basic rhythm values from last year. Now we have moved on to learning music symbols and notation that they will see when they receive music for the recorder in November.

Fifth grade started off the year learning about instrument families! Since we ended last year with the recorder, I thought it would be nice to begin this year learning about other different instruments. We have completed percussion and will be moving on to brass. Students are participating in a composition project where they compose a melodic and rhythms, transpose it to music notation, and will perform their creations on pitched and non-pitched percussive instruments with a partner.

The **sixth grade** year is completely focused on learning how we have the music we have today. In September we start off in the medieval times and by the end of the year we land in the music of today's generation. Every time we hit a new time period, we start with a lesson and then add an activity that reflects that lesson the following week. Students also write a listening journal, a 5 sentence reflection about a piece that reflects current time period.

For more information about how grading breaks down and a more detailed description of lessons and projects, please visit my teacher page: EGMusic.Weebly.com We already started the year off on a great "note!" For any questions please don't hesitate to contact me!

Alexa Zimmerman, General Music, Zimmermana@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FIFTH GRADE

After our first few instrumental lessons, students have learned how to assemble and care for their instruments, produce their first tones, learn eight notes of a major scale and how to read and play them, in addition to learning how to play along with the required accompaniment CD. Currently we are up to page ten in our method books.

The students were most excited to recently receive their first band song in preparation for Band Class which will begin meeting after Thanksgiving (Exact Date TBA) on Mondays and Thursdays, right after school until 4:00. Small group instrumental lessons will continue all year in addition to the two weekly after-school band rehearsals. We currently are introducing our second band song: The Theme from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Keep up the good work!

Students are encouraged to practice every day, referring to their homework assignment sheets which lists exactly what should be learned and practiced at home during the week until the next instrumental lesson. A schedule should be created which allows for a minimum of 15 minutes sessions of home practice.

Fifth Grade band students will hear a Winter Concert performance in December performed by the 6th Grade Band and 4th Grade Choir Chimes. The 5th Grade Band members are anxious to develop their repertoire in preparation for their first public performance at the Spring Concert Thursday May 31, 2018 which will take place on the stage in the Kingsway High School Auditorium. The fifth Grade Band looks forward to their chance to put on a Winter Performance next year as experienced 6th Grade Band Members.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SIXTH GRADE

6th grade students are on a roll preparing for their Winter Concert performance in December! We have introduced/progressed on new music every week in small group lessons and are working on putting it all together in band class.

Skills at this level are introduced rapidly, and the talents of this band continue to develop rapidly. Each section of the band will be highlighted at the Winter concert.

In January we will work on developing an entirely new repertoire of songs in preparation for our next public performance: The Spring Concert Thursday May 31, 2018 which will take place on the stage in the Kingsway High School Auditorium.

Our efforts in January include working to prepare to perform at The High Notes Band Festival on June 1st (subject to approval). This proposed field trip includes the opportunity to compete in performance, followed by an afternoon at Great Adventure. More info to come!

To increase our chances for success: students are encouraged to practice every day, referring to their homework assignment sheets which lists exactly what should be learned and practiced at home during the week, until the next instrumental lesson.

Gary Stocker, Band Director, Stockerg@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

SPANISH CLASS ¿Qué pasa? What's happening?

Hola Parents! We started our school year with our **All About Me** unit and learning vocabulary for our body parts. We have practiced a few body parts songs and music videos- the students especially liked "La Cabeza, me duele la cabeza" (the "I have a headache" music video)! We are also learning about the upcoming *Days of the Dead* holiday, celebrated in Mexico and Central America honoring loved ones who have passed away. Please be sure to check out my Spanish class website to view the rubric for this unit, along with Quizlet and other Sites, and Videos and Music that your child can access to practice the unit vocabulary.

Students are encouraged to practice our unit vocabulary, referring to their Spanish homework log which list exactly what we covered in class that week. The dates I listed on the log reflect the lesson for that week (**not** the days to study).

I am using the Remind App to keep parents informed. Many parents have already signed up for Spanish class Remind, *¡Excelente!* Would you like a reminder about upcoming tests or new units of study? The Remind App information is located in the Vocab Guides and Rubrics tab of my staff webpage.

Thanks for your support and involvement!

Señora Morales, moralesc@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

Strings

The strings program is broken up into 2 groups here at Mickle; Intermediate and Advanced.

Intermediate Group is mainly 3rd grade students. This ensemble is currently working on D Major tonality, etudes and technique building. One strong focus for the intermediate students is ensemble blending. Students are learning how to sound like a string ensemble and working together to achieve their goals as a group, and individually. We listen to each other, and provide feedback. We are also using our technical studies to help us achieve the sounds we seek as a group. Students learn all of the strings at this point and perfect their playing on each string.

Advanced Group is a mixture of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. This ensemble is preparing for the Winter Concert in December. We have been studying different scales and key signatures to prepare us for the holiday music. This group is still continuing to develop technique as well as apply it to our performance repertoire. The winter concert is in December, I look forward to sharing our music with you!

In the spring there will be a combined concert with all strings students. - Stay tuned!

- K Wyatt, Strings Teacher,
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