

A “Special” Newsletter

2021-2022



ART EDUCATION

Students are back in the swing and making themselves at home again in the Samuel Mickle Art room. We are making a great mess just as promised! We started out with a focus on landscape, painting “sunset silhouettes” and exploring different regions including mountains, desert, forest, and beaches. This was a great way to warm up and feel the enjoyment of the artistic process.

Mrs. Morales and I have teamed up to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Students worked in Art class and Spanish class, too. Grade 3 students worked hard to create cut paper Mola designs featuring animals. Grades 4 and 5 are creating cut paper collage sugar skulls. We have been exercising scissor cutting skills and their work is impressive! Grade 6 has just wrapped up an amazing drawing using charcoal and chalk pastels, featuring a skull and candle.

Students will keep art work in school for the Art show but you will be able to see your child’s work through their “Virtual Portfolio” in Google classroom. Be sure to ask your child to see their work as we start the uploads this next week.

I am so excited to be in person and plan to make this year in Art class filled with hands-on projects and loaded with fun!

Mrs. Benedetto

[Website](#)

benedettod@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome back! We are all very excited to be back in person for PE classes and the students are “Rocking It!” We begin our classes in our squad lines six feet from each classmate, complete warm-up stretches, run laps, and then move into the day’s PE activity. The tape lines on the floor help us with social distancing. The activities we have enjoyed so far are Kickball, Wall Ball, Hula Hut, Line Bowling, Stur Tee, Team Bowling, and Soccer. Plus, we have learned about drug and tobacco awareness and prevention in Health class. Please remember to wear sneakers on PE days and to bring a water bottle to class.

Diane O’Malley, PE Teacher omalleyd@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us
Kevin DeVillasanta, PE Teacher devillasantak@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us



SPANISH CLASS



Hola Parents! I am excited to have “los estudiantes” back in “la clase de espanol.” Over the past few weeks we have been getting used to the classroom routines. The 5th and 6th grades started off the school year with our Hispanic Heritage Month lessons. We have been learning about famous Latinos and about the countries where Spanish is spoken. The 4th graders have been reviewing how to ask and tell others their name, age, and expressing how they are feeling.

Third graders kicked off the school year learning classroom objects and how to express needs (“Yo necesito..”). We also collaborated with Mrs. Benedetto on a Hispanic Heritage Month art project and created “Molas.” Molas are hand-made fabric panels that form part of the traditional women’s clothing of the indigenous people from Panama.



In the upcoming weeks, students in all grade levels will be learning about the Days of the Dead holiday and practicing basic conversational Spanish, such as how to ask and tell others about their age and birthdate along with things they like.

I wish you a wonderful start to the school year! Please feel free to connect with me at:
moralesc@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

Sincerely,
Señora Morales

LIBRARY



- ★ I was **SO** excited to welcome students back into the Library **IN-PERSON!!!** It has been great to watch students excitedly check out books, show great character, and eager to learn. This year's library theme is "emojis" again because we all have ever-changing feelings right now, but I will continue to focus on all the positives!
- ★ Students are allowed to check out two books every week, but they must return books to get new ones. If a book is lost or damaged, it will need to be replaced, or you can write a check out to *Samuel Mickle* for the price of the book replacement.
- ★ Students will do all their work during our class time each week and I am here to help everyone. There should be *no stress* in this Library, so if you or your child ever have a question or concern, please reach out to me.
- ★ Throughout every grade level, all students will utilize reading, writing, listening, speaking and technology skills in the Library. I also encourage hands-on, team building maker activities when we have additional time.
- ★ We have hit the ground running! After all our welcome backs, we did grade-level skill assessments, held the book fair and grades four through six are currently writing (*a poem, song, story or play*) to present this week in our Fall/Halloween decorated library.
- ★ Third grade students have been practicing looking up and locating books, and checking out with their own library cards. They also did lessons on book parts, book care, and next week we will discuss what a legend is as we share a story about a local legend together.
- ★ Thank you, thank YOU, **THANK YOU!** Our Fall Scholastic book fair was the most successful one yet! We had \$18,486 in sales and were able to get thousands of books into the hands of our students. Also we collected \$143 in change and donated it to Klara Pedersen, *Little Miss Wheelchair*, to help her buy more books for local libraries that promote equality and inclusiveness.
- ★ I created a virtual library for students to access any time for read-alouds, writing websites, online magazines, reading lists, coding and online quizzes, Scholastic websites and contests, and more. The link is located in their Library Google Classrooms and below:
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ozZWaR0S5Rji0aMgCYwquJhLm7beMsB2ZJDbjEZBx00/preview?rm=minimal>
- ★ Check out my website at <http://mrsligamerislibrary.weebly.com>
- ★ Stay safe & healthy, and feel free to contact me anytime at ligameris@eastgreenwich.nj.us

GENERAL MUSIC

Hi Parents!

After a year of virtual music class, it is an understatement to say how happy and excited I am to be in the classroom with our students, creating memories, as we continue to work together to learn everything about music! It was wonderful to see our returning students and welcome our new third graders!! Here is a description of what we will be learning in the music classroom for the first trimester:

- 3rd Grade: An intermediate level of instrument families and the physics of sound production within each instrument, basic rhythm notation practice, collaborative composition of basic rhythms, performance, audience etiquette, emotional intent in composition
- 4th Grade: Beginning music theory and reading music on the staff in preparation for the RECORDER!! More information to come.
- 5th Grade: Because the grade-level class did not get to participate in recorder last year due to being virtual, 5th grade students will be doing the same curriculum as 4th grade this year (however, at an appropriate level for their age).
- 6th Grade: A complete analysis of our musical history to understand how we got to having the music in our world today. We started at the beginning where music began. Then as the year progresses, we will move closer and closer to our musical world today. In the first trimester, we will cover the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic eras. We will talk about composers, their contributions to the progression and discoveries of music, instruments from each era, and also complete listening journals to analyze how the actual music was composed as it progressed.

Each grade-level will have elements of creating and composition, evaluation and response to music, singing, dancing, music notation, instruments, performing and interpretation, as well as learning about their own individualized connection with music.

For more information, please visit my website at EGMusic.weebly.com and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. I am looking forward to a great year!

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

STRINGS MUSIC

Welcome back to school, Mickle Strings! We have a lot to look forward to in the 2021-2022 school year! This year we are implementing a lot of positive changes both with decorating our strings room, prizes and incentives to learn and practice, as well as increasing our performance time and having fun learning a beautiful instrument!

I have used my time in the past year and a half to create some unique and fun opportunities for students to interact with the music and use more resources to help their performance and level of fun!

Please contact me with any questions about instruments either from Coles or from the school and take a minute to fill out this survey: <https://forms.gle/cpDVRxAqTcPN9czGA>

We had a parent meeting on Thursday, September 9th from 6-7pm in the LGI where we discussed the Strings program and curriculum for this year and how we were going to approach learning and scheduling. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

This year, we are working directly with the classroom teachers, curriculum supervisors, and building principals to make sure that the students are having their lesson at the best possible times.

This is our exciting new and freshly updated Strings website: <https://egstrings.weebly.com>

For any questions please don't hesitate to contact me, Mrs. Stewart, at: stewartj@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (BAND)

Welcome back, Band students! We are back in school, ready to rock, and I am very excited to get back to making music together. As I am out for the first 12 weeks of the year on leave, Mr. Jason Stewart has been getting the band program off and running (see below).

6th Grade Band is up and fully operational, with in-person lessons going strong. We are also working hard at our after school band rehearsals, learning our concert music. We are so excited and looking forward to our winter concert this year. Stay tuned for more information about that event, as well as future concerts that will take place later this year.

We are off to a great start for our **5th Grade Band!** A 5th Grade Band Parent Information Night session was held on September 9th in order to learn more about the band program and instruments. We do still have spots available if your 5th Grader is still interested in becoming a band member. It's never too late to start learning a musical instrument, so please fill out the registration form and we'll be in touch:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YpOO_CCgpB1RZpTJhr1SYuNwOsch07bBUlUPoPOad8/edit?usp=sharing

If they are having trouble deciding which instrument to pick, check out my demo video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vFNzRAR5_Zg6TVwXXjMGJ78Drb-bejUm/view?usp=sharing

I look forward to seeing all of our great SMS Band students again this year!

Mr. Gillespie

For more information, check out my website (<https://samuelmickleband.weebly.com/>) or feel free to email me at gillespiem@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us or Mr. Stewart at stewartja@eastgreenwich.k12.nj.us