

# February Music and Drama News

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## What's happening in the NCA Music and Drama classes?

**Kindergarten:** The Kindergarten students are having fun with Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Walchenbach this quarter. Singing songs, playing instruments and participating in music games are favorite activities for these young musicians.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** First graders spent the last couple of weeks studying Sergei Prokofiev's, "Peter and the Wolf." Students have learned to recognize orchestral instruments by sight and sound through this classic musical tale. Valentine singing games have also been a highlight of music class lately.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** The second graders continue to add new rhythm symbols to their knowledge bank. Through movement, instruments, and games like Rhythm Bingo, students are becoming more comfortable with recognizing and understanding these symbols. Second graders are also using some music class time to prepare "The Rap of the Presidents" for the Parade of Presidents coming up in March.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Students are so excited to play their violins each Monday and Thursday. They are learning how to take excellent care of an instrument, how to correctly hold the violin, and how to play using either their bow or just their fingers. See if your student can tell you what "pizzicato" means!

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The fourth graders are focusing on mastering the first three notes of the recorder, B A G. We play "BAG songs" in class. They are doing an excellent job learning their role and the discipline it takes to be in a musical ensemble.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** After wonderful performances in the Winter Concert, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Band, Strings, and Choir are all digging into new music for their part of the Fine Arts Fair performance in May. Choir students are being challenged with harmonies and syncopated rhythms to sing. String students are learning new rhythms and bowings. Band students are digging into their fundamentals and really exploding with their ability to play as an ensemble.

**MS Choirs:** The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir has a folder filled with new music they are learning for upcoming chapels, performances, and the Best of Middle School. They are currently singing songs in three different languages. After the Winter Concert, Select Choir students had the opportunity to vote to choose their new spring music. They are excited about the choices they've made. The combined choirs (6<sup>th</sup> grade & Select) have been invited to sing at Northshore Christian Church on Sunday, May 1. What a blessing it will be to serve them with our gift of music. Please mark your calendars.

**MS Orchestra:** This semester, the string players are working on several new pieces including movie themes and fiddle songs, as well as some classical arrangements. Soon we will be starting some individual solo and small group pieces.

**MS Bands:** Jazz Ensemble did a great job helping to lead the MS Pep Assembly at the end of Spirit Week. All three MS bands are busy learning new music for their spring performances.

**MS Drama:** In drama class, students are performing their monologues or scenes and doing a fantastic job! Creativity and preparation are apparent in these challenging tasks. After school, "Fiddler on the Roof" preparations are in full swing! Students are doing an incredible job on their music and choreography. They know (almost) the entire show. The next month we will be busy perfecting and adjusting so that we will be ready to bring an inspiring performance to our audience. Don't miss the shows on March 20 & 21!