

Cardinal Community Academy's Noteworthy News

Hello, my name is Stacy Thompson, and I am the music teacher. I am also CCA's Kindergarten teacher. I've taught music in the past at CCA and have come back to it once again. I'm excited to be able to teach Core Knowledge Curriculum Music to your child, and I look forward to a year of fun and learning! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Warmly,

Ms. Stacy Thompson

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Here are the musical happenings at CCA for the months of August and September:

1st Grade: We have been and will continue to learn to identify whole notes, half notes, and quarter notes. We played bells and moved responsively to the beat. We discriminated between fast and slow, long and short sounds, and high and low pitches. We've learned the definition of melody and rhythm. We will begin a multiple-week study of Peter and the Wolf, a musical story where various animal characters within the story are represented by instruments from a symphony orchestra. We also been singing "America the Beautiful," "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," and "Yankee Doodle."

2nd Grade: We are working on identifying various notation, such as a staff, treble clef, whole, half, and quarter notes and rests. We'll review the four families of instruments found in an orchestra, and we will be listening to Carnival of the Animals, composed by Camille Saint-Saens. This musical work is kind of a "musical joke" composed by a music teacher on a dare by his students. It is a fun way to teach the children about various instruments. We've also learned about melody and rhythm. We've played the bells, and moved responsively to the beat. We discriminated between fast and slow, long and short sounds, and high and low pitches. We've been singing "Clementine," which we put to actions, which the kids enjoy very much!

3rd Grade: We've been reviewing and building upon our knowledge of musical notation (i.e. the treble clef, staff, notes, rests, time signature) through games and by reading music to play the bells. We are learning in depth about the four families of instruments. We've been singing a fun song called "Every Good Boy Does Fine" to

help us remember the notes on the lines of the treble clef. We've also been singing Polly Wolly Doodle, which the kids enjoy because of its fast pace.

4th Grade: We've been reviewing and will continue to build upon our understanding of musical notation. We will begin a study of Benjamin Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* as a review of the orchestra, which includes families of instruments as well as the study of specific instruments. We'll also become familiar with Gregorian Chant, which is sacred music, also known as plainchant, which accompanied mass celebrations. It is named after Pope Gregory I, who ruled as Pope from 590-604. We've been singing some fun songs, such as "Every Good Boy Does Fine," which helps us remember the notes on the lines of the treble clef, as well as "Play That Music All Day Long," a jazz tune.

5th Grade: We are reviewing and broadening our knowledge of musical notation and terms through games and other activities, such as reading music to play the bells. We are beginning an in-depth study of Ludwig van Beethoven, learning about this musical genius from his childhood through his death. Some of his greatest works were composed towards his latter years when he was deaf. We've also sung "God Bless America."

6th, 7th, & 8th Grades: For those who have music class as an elective, we have been reviewing musical notation through games such as "Note Wars" where the children race against time to spell words with letters from the musical alphabet. We've also played a Musical Bingo game where the children identify instruments by sight and sound. We will begin a study of composer from the Baroque Era, and then move on to the Classical and Romantic Eras.