

Welcome to music!

Dear Parents,

My name is Katie McTyre and I am so excited to be back at Egremont for my 6th year as the music teacher! It is so important to me that music is a creative outlet and a welcoming and fun space for everyone. Recognizing that every student will have different loves and strengths, my goal is to cover a wide variety of topics and activities in each class to engage every student. Yes, we will be singing, and covering basic musical concepts and musical notation. In addition to that, we will be continuing our use of the fabulous musical interactive program QuaverEd, and each grade level will be studying classical composers and eras, famous pieces of music, instruments of the orchestra, and creating their own class compositions!

Each class has access to our instruments throughout the year including: boomwahckers, bucket drums, rhythm sticks, shakers, hand bells, and hand drums. Our 2nd & 3rd Graders will be starting with recorders (outside and distanced) and our 5th Grade will be starting violin soon. New for this year, 4th Grade will be starting ukulele! Grades 3-5 should be ready to take their instruments home to practice a few days each week. The school will be providing any extra recorders needed for this year. Those are for students to keep, but should be maintained in good condition for use throughout the year. We are thrilled to be able to loan out the school Violins and Ukuleles to our 4th and 5th Graders for the year. Instruments use agreements forms for 4th and 5th Grade will be going out this week for students and parents to sign regarding care of their instruments. Please keep instruments in or around school supplies so students have them every week for class. Instrument schedules are as follows:

- 2nd Grade Recorder: **Wednesdays**
- 3rd Grade Recorder: **Tuesdays**
- 4th Grade: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays**
- 5th Grade: **Wednesdays & Thursdays**

Student grades in music are based off of participation. While I do know that everyone's skills and interests will be varied, I do expect good behavior and effort in class and will be making grades based off of this. Students will have class work and worksheets throughout the school year that will be graded and count towards their overall participation. While worksheets are graded, they are mostly used as a gauge for me regarding class comprehension. Proper class behavior and participation includes following instructions, actively participating, being respectful, being helpful to other classmates, and taking care of our class instruments.

We are also looking forward to having some music concerts/presentations this year, however, we are unsure of what that will look like just now due to the ever changing state of the pandemic...but we WILL find a way to celebrate with music! More updates will come as the school year progresses.

I am looking forward to a great year with everyone! Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with any questions you might have.

Warmly,

Ms. Katie
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