

IHM Specials Classes: 1st Trimester 2018 Update

Music

It's been a great trimester in the music room! Students in **PK and 4K** have learned the routines of the music room. Ask them to sing "The Birdies Fly Away" for you! The **Kindergarten** class is starting to explore the xylophones, and has learned a lot about the 4 voices - talking, whispering, shouting, and of course singing! **1st graders** are hard at work learning the difference between beat and rhythm; using songs like "Apple Tree" and "I Climbed Up the Apple Tree" to begin part work. **2nd graders** reviewed their skills from last year and put together a fabulous performance of "Autumn Leaves are Falling" including xylophones, metallophones, and even some improvisation! **3rd grade** continues to build their solfege skills by singing and playing "King's Land" - be sure to ask them about the special instrument sound used in the game. **4th and 5th grades** are having a fabulous time making music together. They composed a piece called "Fruit Salad" and have learned about the Revolutionary War with a song and game called "Fire in the Mountain". We have a blast each week on Movement Monday! In Middle School, the **6th grade** is working on their writing skills with Daily Music Journal assignments. **7th grade** is diving into the World Music curriculum with Jam of the Day assignments and a world music instrument research project. **8th grade** has begun the History of American Popular Music/Rock History curriculum, beginning with an investigation of the electric guitar. They have also learned some really great instrumental pieces!

-Mrs. Binzak

WORLD LANGUAGES

The World Languages programs are off to a great start! **Spanish (K-2)** are listening, repeating and starting to learn to read basic vocabulary. In addition to bilingual books, digital material is enhances their exposure to Spanish through songs and simple stories with subtitles. We will perform a favorite song at the school Talent Show!

French (3-5) are listening, repeating, writing and translating sentences and paragraphs (from English to French and French to English) using basic vocabulary. They, too, are exposed to digital material in the form of French songs and stories.

The **Middle Schoolers** are continuing to learn new German and Spanish (the digital VOCES program) vocabulary and grammar and posting on our World Language classroom blogs. This trimester, our blog has focused on the Gapminder Foundation's current worldwide economic statistics and educational programs. Both the German and Spanish courses have incorporated online digital material that has enhanced the classroom learning experience!

Frau/Senora/Madame Linsenmeyer

LIBRARY

Students are learning to love books in the library! The **4K** is being introduced to the concepts of book care, choosing a book, looking quietly, and returning books to their correct spot on the shelves. They just started checking out books to keep in their classroom for the week. We have had fall and beginning of school-themed read alouds for **4K, K, and 1st Grade**. I introduced **2nd Graders** to a the popular Eerie Elementary series with "The School is Alive", and the **combined 3,4,5 classes** have really been enjoying the classic "Chocolate Fever" by Robert Kimmel Smith. In the Middle School, I am reading "The House with the Clock in It's Walls" by John Bellairs, (a favorite of mine from my own Middle School days!) to the 6 & 8th Grades, and "I, Funny" by James Patterson to the 7th. Ask them what they think!

The Scholastic Book Fair is all wrapped up, and was very successful, thanks to all of our awesome families. I bought many books from the fair for our library, and the students are all excited for me to catalog and cover them so they can start to check them out!

-Mrs. Winter

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NEW MEDIA ART

This year marks the beginning of a new emphasis for what was previously known as the “Computer Class” at IHM. Computers are now ubiquitous in society, and the basic technology skill set has evolved to encompass a much wider range of activities and creative expressions. To this end, we are introducing a new set of learning experiences inspired by the current “state of the art”.

All classes at IHM, beginning with the second grade, are now designing and building executable computer programs. We are incorporating multiple instructional platforms, both online (code.org) and netbook based (Scratch from MIT). Students are developing fundamental coding concepts, using a “block” object oriented format that reveals Python and/or Javascript code beneath the programming block. This allows students to “preview” a more advanced approach while still working at the introductory level.

Once a certain level of skill is achieved, students are then able to program their own games based on Minecraft, Star Wars, Frozen, Basketball, and many others. As they advance, they move to integrated programming applications such as drones (aviation), robotic cars, and 3D printing. For 3D printing they combine a CAD (Computer Aided Design) environment with coding to enable the creation of more complex objects.

The eighth grade class has entered the initial stage of their final project. They have been scanning images of their own art work collected throughout the year, using the images along with text to develop basic presentation slides. These slides are then captured with a screenshot program and downloaded for use as initial objects in the video they edit using multi-track software. Along with animated GIFs and vector graphics, the video will become part of their personal web site & gallery. After Christmas, the creation of a full-size oil painting will be incorporated into the entire process.

This year at IHM, students are moving into new and exciting areas of technological exploration, expanding their awareness and skills, and building on the foundation that will serve them well in the future that does not yet exist, but is waiting for their arrival.

-Dr. Maynard

PHY. ED.

Hello Parents! It has been an absolute joy working with the kids this fall on developing their love for movement. The focus this fall trimester has been working toward developing our AEROBIC SYSTEMS (grades 1-8) and GROSS-MOTOR skills (ECE, PREK, K).

If you were to walk into our gym class for **ECE, 4K, and K** we work on these qualities through FUN imaginative play using crawling, rolling, balancing upright, balancing upside down, running, hopping, climbing. It has been a joy traveling to the Barrier Reef, Pirate Ship, Exploring Bat Caves and many more themed activities for our time in gym. Those kiddos can certainly use their imaginations!

For **GRADES 1st - 5th** we have been doing developmental gymnastics activities, running challenges, obstacle courses, races, field games, floor hockey and even some dancing! The goal of our activities is to expose them to a variety of challenges to keep things exciting and fun.

Our **MIDDLE SCHOOL** kids have an window of development for the aerobic system, and the time now is to challenge it even further. In addition, we have also been working on tactical skills and speed – using soccer, running games and races, floor hockey and basketball. If you have any questions or want to learn more about what we are doing in P.E. feel free to stop by or reach on out via email!

- Mrs. Snider