

IHM Specials Classes: 2nd Trimester 2019 Update

Music

It's been a great trimester in the music room!

Students in **ECE** and **4K** have been exploring small percussion instruments like egg shakers, maracas, drums, and tambourines. 4K spends time in each music class practicing high and low sounds with Pinkie and Thumbkin. The **Kindergarten** class spent a lot of time with their beat buddies this winter, working on musical skills such as beat keeping, singing voices, and lullabies. **1st graders** transferred their knowledge of rhythm into sound with long and short-short patterns. Now they are ready to learn about the first 'real' music notes – and begin reading off a two line staff. **2nd grade** was introduced to their second new rhythm of this year – half note. They can sing, play, move, and compose with this two beat rhythm. Ask them to perform half note songs for you, such as “Rocky Mountain” or “Who’s That Tapping at the Window?” **3rd grade** continues to build their musical skills by adding recorder! They can sing and play songs with so, mi, and la as well as identify their musical alphabet notes on the staff. All white belts and even a few yellow belts have been given out! Way to go! **4th and 5th grades** have been working diligently to understand and perform music with syncopation – sounds that are off the steady beat. These types of songs are fun and exciting - - ask them to teach you how to play “Bump Up Tomato” - - just try not to laugh!

In Middle School, the **6th grade** has begun working on identifying meter, which divides music into groups of three or four beats (or sometimes odd numbers too!). Challenge them to listen to any song in the car and find out how many beats are in each measure. They have also begun a unit on Careers in Music, which will finish in Trimester 3. **7th grade** did some great work in T2 on music from China and India. They even composed some of their own music on our classroom barred instruments in the style of an Indian raga. **8th grade** has completed units from our Rock curriculum on the Beatles and Surf music. We are also beginning to explore musical modes and connect them to different emotions and moods. Our goal is to learn one piece in each musical mode by the end of the year.

-Mrs. Binzak

WORLD LANGUAGES

The IHM World Languages program is continuing to expose our students to the three major European languages and European culture. Lots of challenging and fun learning is taking place!

Spanish (K-2) are memorizing basic vocabulary by listening, repeating and reading! We're continuing to read bilingual books, and the CleverTouch board has enhanced learning by incorporating interesting digital material - Spanish songs, short conversation videos and simple stories with subtitles. The 2nd graders have started doing skits which enable them to use basic vocabulary and short songs creatively.

French (3-5) are currently working on the Winter poem project “L’hiver,” in addition to listening, repeating, writing and translating sentences and paragraphs using basic vocabulary. They are continuing to enjoy digital material in the form of French songs, short videos and ebooks.

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 western European food, dress and recreation. Both the German and Spanish courses have continued to take advantage of online digital material! The **8th graders** are preparing to compete at German Day, a UW-Madison competition for middle and high school students from southwestern Wisconsin. Over 500 students will compete in Poetry, Spelling, Pictionary, Charades, Poster, Skit and Music.

Frau/Senora/Madame Linsenmeyer

Continued on the next page...

IHM Specials Classes: 1st Trimester 2018 Update

LIBRARY

Students are learning to love books in the library! The **4K** just started taking home the books they check out, learning how to be responsible for them at home and bring them back to check out another one. We have had lots of fun read alouds for **4K, K, and 1st Grade** including Caldecott Award Winner "Wolf in the Snow." The **2nd Graders** begged me to keep reading "Ivy and Bean" every week, so we finished it quickly and just started the classic "My Father's Dragon" by Ruth Stiles Gannet. The **combined 3,4,5 classes** finished "Chocolate Fever" and we have started the silly and hysterical "Sideways Stories from Wayside School" by Louis Sachar. In the Middle School, I am still reading "The House with the Clock in It's Walls" by John Bellairs, and to the 6 & 8th Grades, and "I, Funny" by James Patterson to the 7th. Ask them what they think!

You may notice your 3-8th grade student bringing home library books with "Withdrawn" stamped inside. These are for them to keep – no need to return to IHM! I "weeded" a few sections of the IHM library (this is a common library practice, and like weeding a garden – taking out the old books, books that are never checked out, that are in poor physical shape, that are unappealing, etc. to make way for new books) and after the teachers had a chance to take what they wanted for their classrooms, offered them to the students. The books left over will be taken to Half Price Books, or donated!

Watch out for the Spring Scholastic Book Fair next month!
-Mrs. Winter

NEW MEDIA ART

The **fourth and fifth** grade New Media Arts class has reached an exciting level of accomplishment in the development of their technology skills. They have completed significant training in coding, and are now moving on to real-world applications in robotics. There is a great deal of work to be done with their robots. So far they have learned to command the robots using hand claps, and bar code patterns. Their robots can be programmed to avoid obstacles, follow lines, bounce on borders, and they can even become sumo wrestlers, avoiding or choosing contact when appropriate.

In the coming weeks, the class will be programming the robots to play soccer, and the students will be building cranes, diggers, tanks, and robot controlled printers that use markers. As the activities advance to higher levels, students will be acquiring more complex skills using a "blockly" programming environment with an interface very similar to the MIT Scratch program they already have on their netbooks. The students have so much fun working with robots, they have given the robots names – and are protecting them in their storage bins along with all the gears, cables and structural pieces that allow them to explore the world of possibilities where they can create integrated electronic devices and see them move and operate in response to their pre-coded commands. The process is exciting and very rewarding educationally!

-Dr. Maynord

PHY. ED.

It has been a busy and eventful second trimester! With all the snow and cold days we certainly had some fun themes to work with with our **ECE, Kinder and 4K** classes. We continue to work on our GROSS-MOTOR skills and now adding in COORDINATION of our upper and lower body to accomplish various tasks and obstacles. The kids sure are getting stronger and seem to be enjoying 'moving their bones!'

Our **FIRST - FIFTH GRADES** have been using various gymnastics, medicine balls, obstacle courses, basketball and volleyball skills to work on their fitness. We have been focusing in using these tasks to improve their body's endurance.

Our **MIDDLE SCHOOL** kids have been building upon their aerobic development from last trimester and transitioning into more SPEED-STRENGTH activities including extensive developmental gymnastics and jump work, various speed and running drills, games and races, obstacle challenges, and more recently volleyball skills and games.

I am looking forward to seeing the weather warm-up and getting back outside for PE - and I am sure most of the students feel the same way! I have enjoyed watching the kids improve in their physical capabilities through these first two trimesters and am encouraged to see how their development progresses through the rest of the year and years to come. As always if there are any questions or would like to learn more about what we are doing in Physical Education don't hesitate to stop by or send me an email

- Mrs. Snider