

IHM Specials Classes: 1st Trimester 2019 Update

Music

It's been a great trimester in the music room! Students in **ECE and 4K** have learned the routines of the music room and are using dramatic play and creative movement to become expressive singers and musicians! The **Kindergarten** class has learned a lot about the 4 voices - talking, whispering, shouting, and of course singing! They are also working on cooperative instrument playing, using small handheld percussion. **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 have all ready been introduced to a new note! Ask them what a "tika tika" is. **3rd grade** continues to build their solfege skills by singing and playing games like "Frog in the Meadow" and "Closet Key". **4th grade** musicians use solfege and music reading skills in every class. They are working hard on being tuneful, beatful, and artful in every song or activity.

Electives are off to a great start in **Middle School**. Instrumental Ensemble will present a piece at Grandparents Day called "Marimba Jam". The students in Theatre have completed projects focused on both acting and technical theatre. Each Tuesday and Wednesday morning begins with Ukulele class. Mrs. Binzak is absolutely astounded at their progress! Come hear them play at Grandparents Day! Looking forward to Trimester 2!

-Mrs. Binzak

WORLD LANGUAGES

The French, German and Spanish world language programs are off to a great start! In addition to basic foreign language learning and geography, all classes have been learning about different standards of living in countries all over the world. What do Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 homes look like? Does each family member have his or her own toothbrush? What is a typical meal? What do they dream of owning – a mattress, bike, car or an even bigger television?

Spanish (K-2) are listening, repeating, reading, spelling and translating basic vocabulary. In addition to bilingual books, digital materials enhance their exposure to Spanish through songs and simple stories in Spanish with subtitles.

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. They are currently finishing a project (written in basic French) about families in the Francophone world.

The **Middle Schoolers** are continuing to learn new German, French or Spanish vocabulary/grammar and posting comments about current events and topics on our World Language classroom blogs. Students have delved into Dollar Street and the Gapminder Foundation's current worldwide economic statistics and educational programs. The student learning experience continues to be enhanced by these and other interesting online digital materials.

The first trimester field trip to World Appreciation Day at the UW-Madison will expose our students to less commonly taught languages/cultures such as Finnish, Hmong, Korean, Pashto, Polish, Swahili and Turkish. Hopefully, our students will leave with a greater appreciation of the richness and diversity of the cultures in our world.

-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 also just started checking books out of the library to keep in their classroom for the week. We have had Fall and beginning of school-themed read alouds for **ECE, 4K, K, 1st and 2nd Graders**. The **3rd, 4th, & 5th grade** classes and I have been having fun with some more advanced concept science-themed picture books, and will start a read aloud chapter book in December.

In the **Middle School**, I introduced a new "Library Achievements" project this year. The students can choose from dozens of ways to get points in class. Each achievement is a way for them to engage with the library. At the end of the Trimester, the students who reach their point goal get a reward – for the 1st Trimester, they will walk to McDonald's for lunch. I think the Achievements project is going great – 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

Continued on the next page...

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NEW MEDIA ART

This year's "elective" approach for Middle School Technology classes has proven to be extremely successful and rewarding. Students enroll in selected classes - whether Robotics, Coding, or Computer Aided Design - based on their individual interests and inclinations. These three areas of exploration represent the "cutting edge" of technology, with traditional skills such as keyboarding, data manipulation and information acquisition all being part of the wider cultural skill set of most students. The new skills all have a "hands on" emphasis, with immediate feedback inherent in the instructional activity. The end result is a greater sense of learning accomplishment.

One of the most popular classes is Robotics. This is no doubt due to the integration of multiple ways of working with the robots. For example, a robot can be controlled through bar-code tracking as well as code created and downloaded into the robot using an audio cable. These two methods can be combined with a third approach - a remote control where the students program a robot to receive specific infrared command signals assigned by the student. When all three techniques are combined - such as with a robot crane - it can be very exciting.

The Coding Class appeals to students who wish to spend a concentrated, focused time with pure coding, knowing that skills acquired will eventually apply to a wider range of activities. Students are allowed to progress independently, and some students enjoy working far ahead, exploring activities that are unique and interesting, yet novel to all previous learning. For every lesson in coding, there are optional "challenges", and regular assignments may include artistic projects, as well as "bonus" activities involving the manipulation of sprites in dances set to popular contemporary music.

In the CAD (Computer Aided Design) class, students quickly discover that computer design techniques span a broad range of possible object creations, from chess pieces to rings, from clothing to cars, from houses to furniture. One key element of the class is a re-visit to the world of file extensions. File extensions are essential in technology, allowing computer systems to define what program or application will be used to open a particular file. In the case of CAD files, there are tens of thousands of objects that can be downloaded, but only stereolithography (.stl) files can be printed on our 3D printer. Modifying pre-existent files is one activity students enjoy greatly.

The 2019-2020 eighth grade students have proven themselves to be exceptionally innovative, with great potential for the highest level of creative presentation in their final projects. Already, their Vector Self Portraits demonstrate a new level of inventiveness, with unique and colorful backgrounds coupled with expressive font manipulation. There will be a new phase of adventure for all, as we see how the class imprints the entire process with their own unique characteristics, reflecting the years they have been together.

It is the most exciting time to be alive and growing up, with the new world of expanding technological innovation combined with unprecedented challenges. Our students at IHM are clearly "up to the task," developing skills and energies necessary to live a rich life where the possibilities are wide open.

-Dr. Maynard

PHY. ED.

It has been an eventful Fall Trimester in Physical Education! While I've been on maternity leave, Mrs. Kuechle has continued establishing our class routines and discussing and displaying virtuous behaviors such as fortitude, patience, and kindness. Our **ECE, 4K, and Kindergarten** classes love signing and moving our bodies to our welcome song along with getting our bodies moving with the daily "warm-up wiggles." We keep busy using our imaginations to work on our gross-motor skills!

For our **1st through 5th grades** in Physical Education, we have been very active racing obstacle courses, practicing developmental gymnastics, running races, performing various class challenges and even some class dance parties. This first trimester of school we are gearing up our aerobic systems through the various activities - as this is a key developmental window for this age group.

For **Middle School grades**, we have kicked off the year with new electives! **TEAM SPORTS** class has been playing football and volleyball. **INDIVIDUAL SPORTS** has explored running, frisbee golf and even polished their archery skills! All students participate in **FITNESS FOR LIFE** once a week where we are challenged with a daily workout using our body as resistance as well as various external resistance tools such as medicine balls, bands and weighted bars. We started the trimester working on aerobic fitness, transitioned into strength endurance and we will close out the trimester with power and speed.

I look forward to being back from maternity leave after Christmas vacation!

- Mrs. Snider