

# Music Notes



Our 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been learning about African American Spirituals and their influence on contemporary American music. We have also been focusing on identifying and describing musical elements such as tone color, pitch, texture, form, tempo dynamics and rhythm. These students are also developing their ear training skills by dictating rhythms and melodies on music staff paper.



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are beginning to learn how to play the baroque recorder which is a woodwind instrument that we use to teach musical concepts, sight reading and ensemble playing. In addition, by learning to play the recorder, students will be better prepared to play a band or orchestral instrument this fall when they are in 4<sup>th</sup> grade!



Our kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are continuing to focus on similarities and differences in music, such as fast/slow, loud/soft, high/low. They are also beginning to read and write simple music notation using quarter notes, eighth notes and rests.



Group 1 of the Clearspring School of Rock (CSR) is working in two separate groups (bands) and will be performing a LIVE CONCERT at the Music Café in Damascus, MD on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Everyone is invited to come to this show and rock out with our 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students rock bands.



Finally, our school's chorus, made up of over 200 students in grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, will be performing a musical theater production of Clearspring on Broadway, Part II on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> during the day at Clearspring ES and that evening at Damascus HS. This show will feature hit songs from Broadway Musicals performed by grade level ensembles and soloists. We have been busy learning music and will start choreography rehearsals in mid/late March. We are still in need of parent volunteers to come in one day per week to help out with choreography. Mr. Amberg and other staff are will to work with parents to help teach our students the movements for each song. Please contact Mr. Amberg if you are able to volunteer with our spring show! You can email [mark\\_amberg@mcpsmd.org](mailto:mark_amberg@mcpsmd.org) or call the school 301-253-7004.