

## Fort Cherry Elementary Center

110 Fort Cherry Road  
McDonald, Pennsylvania 15057  
(724) 796-1551  
(724) 356-4445  
fax (724) 356-2770

Mr. Mayer  
Elementary Principal

Mrs. Brianne Eiler  
Student Services Coordinator



Dear Parents/Guardians:

### Morning drop off procedures for students NOT riding the bus:

- Students CANNOT be dropped off before 8:45 a.m.
- Elementary drop off point is the front sidewalk. Please access at the parking lot by the water tower.
- NO cars should be in the bus lane before 9:00 a.m.
- Please DO NOT escort students to the door unless no school employee is visible

### Afternoon pick procedures for students NOT riding the bus:

- Students will be dismissed no sooner than 3:45
- Parents CAN NOT enter the school during dismissal, please stay in your vehicles
- Parents should follow the last bus through the front circle to pick up students
- Parents CAN NOT enter the bus lane after 3:00 pm. or until all buses have left

During the first few weeks of school dismissal may take a little longer ensuring that all students know/get on the correct bus. Please be patient.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Mr. Mayer  
Elementary Principal

If you have any questions or concerns please call Mrs. Goddard at 724.796.1551 ext. 2000.

**"Student Success is Our #1 Priority"**

Fort Cherry School District is an Equal Rights and Opportunities Educational Agency



## Fort Cherry Elementary Center GROUP PERMISSION

We are pleased to share that Eva Kramer, high school mental health consultant and licensed professional counselor is able to meet with our elementary students in small groups during the school day.

Throughout the school year groups will be offered to our students during their AIRE, recess, lunch or another time agreed upon by you.

The **PERMISSION** form is on the bottom of this letter. If you feel your child would benefit from any additional support, please fill in your child's name and check off the topics in which you would like them to participate. **Please return the permission form to your child's homeroom teacher.**

Sincerely,

*Amy Oberly, M.S.Ed*

*Elementary School Counselor*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Social Skills (K-2: understanding feelings and behavior; 3-6: empathy, conflict resolution and peer pressure.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Expectations (K-2: listening skills, following directions and self-control; 3-6: organizational skills, setting priorities and goals.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Self-Management (Self-esteem, impulse control and self-regulation / coping skills)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Changing family (grief / death / divorce / new sibling - moved sibling / blended families)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Anxiety (dealing with worries, separation anxiety and stress management.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Friendship (making friends, keeping friends, dealing with unkind friends and what to do when we fight with a friend.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Childs name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade / homeroom

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Eva Kramer at [evakramer@fortcherry.org](mailto:evakramer@fortcherry.org) or Amy Oberly at [aoberly@fortcherry.org](mailto:aoberly@fortcherry.org). You may also call at: (724) 796-1551 ext. 2615 or 2201 . You may also email your permission, indicating your child's name and group(s) topic.

**Fort Cherry Elementary**  
**Music Department**  
Mrs. Rachel Nelson  
rnelson@fortcherry.org  
Mr. Matthew Nelson  
mnelson@fortcherry.org

Dec./Jan.  
Volume 1



# Music News

## Kindergarten and First Grade Music

As we continue into the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year, the kindergarten and first grade music classes will learn some new songs each week, new movement activities, and we will spend a lot of time playing some games using the concept of steady beat, loud and soft sounds, and fast and slow movements. These concepts are the building blocks for a solid foundation for learning how to play, dance, or even clap along with songs of all kinds of genres. I like to spend extra time on these skills to be sure that all of the students have a good understanding, before we move on in the Quaver curriculum.

## Second Grade Music

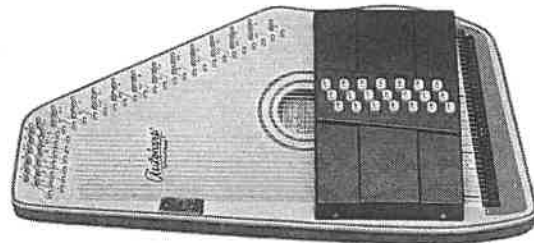
The second grade music classes are continuing to study note and rest recognition and durations. We use many different games offered on Quaver, and some others, to continue to help reinforce this sometimes very difficult concept to master. We will also start singing some more songs out of our text books, and then add some more difficult piano, small instrument, and auto harp accompaniments to those songs, once we understand notes, rests, and their durations better.

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### Special points of interest

\* Star Music Students

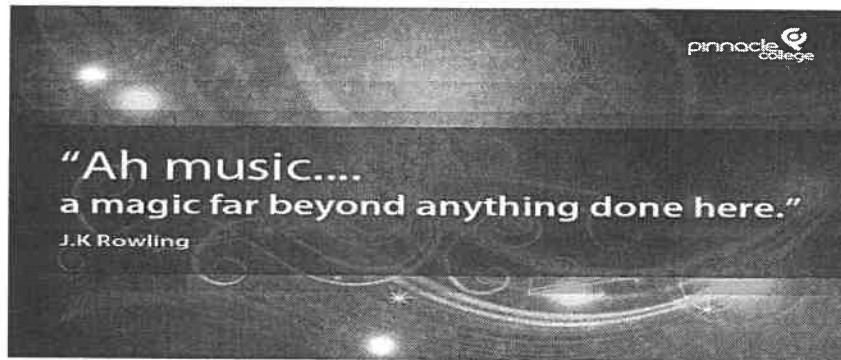
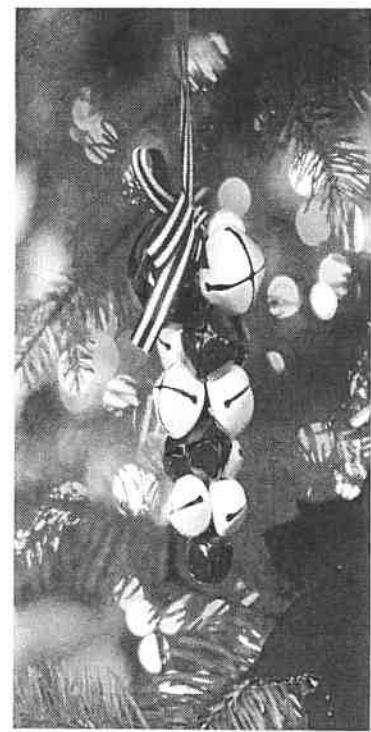




### Third Grade-Music Class

The third grade classes will be continuing with learning the recorder, and earning ribbons. So far, they have had the opportunity to earn their purple ribbon and this month they will have the chance to earn their red ribbon. The students should be learning two new notes C, and D in

order to perform the song that will be needed for their red ribbon. There will be 5 ribbons that the students can earn by the end of the year. The last three will be the most difficult and will require the most practice on the student's part to learn. Watch for future newsletters for the dates of when tryouts for these ribbon songs will be.



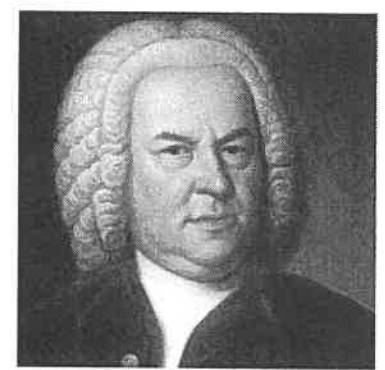
### Fourth Grade Music

The fourth grade classes are going to be learning about the Baroque Period of music and its composers Antonio Vivaldi and Johann Sebastian Bach. We will be learning the background of the composers from our Quaver online curriculum and listening to some of their most famous works. The students will also have the opportunity to sing some holiday songs, before we leave for our holiday break.



Antonio Vivaldi

Johann Sebastian Bach





**American Composer  
John Williams**

## **Fifth / Sixth Grade Music**

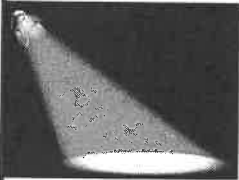
For the fifth grade music classes, they will just be doing some holiday music activities for the few weeks that we will be having classes. Once we hit January, we will be starting into our unit on American Composers.

In the sixth grade music classes, we will also be doing a few weeks of holiday activities to finish out December, then once January hits, we will be starting into the History of Rock n' Roll with the music of the 1950's. The students will get to see video's of the singers from the 50's, and learn how the music from that time period still influences music of today. The students will learn specifically about the "Day the Music Died," and the true story of "Elvis Pressley."



**Elvis Presley**

### **\*Student spotlight....**



## **Star Music Students For December/January**

\*If you are picked as a star music student you will get the following:  
Students in grades K-3- Free Prize Pick  
4-6- 50 Music Bucks

### **Kindergarten:**

Cecilia Curtis  
Cameron Farrell  
Anna Litman  
Leah Vasiladiotis

### **First Grade:**

Emma Bistarkey  
Dawson Brown  
Josie Reynolds  
Beau Zofchak

### **Second Grade:**

Abigail Edgar  
Graham Ogburn  
Jackson Sieg  
Allison Vasiladiotis

### **Third Grade:**

Eliora Bushmire  
Piper Klezia  
Bennett Visloski

### **Fourth Grade:**

Nora Farner  
Jessica Gao  
Nicholas Vasiladiotis

### **Fifth Grade:**

Anna Alderson  
Olivia Aleksiejczyk  
Callen McClanahan

### **Sixth Grade:**

Dylan Delany  
Taylor Eiler  
Paul Shattuck  
Keira Singer

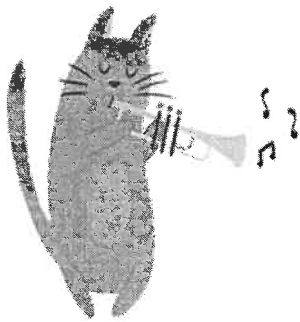
What to do if you want  
to play an Instrument?

**\*\*Guess what...**

**It's not too late!**

Go and see Mrs. Nelson  
for the proper papers.

**\*If you are in 5/6th  
grade you will also be in  
the elementary band.**



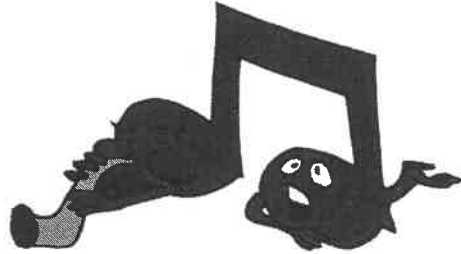
[mnelson@fortcherry.org](mailto:mnelson@fortcherry.org)

-Mr. Nelson

[rnelson@fortcherry.org](mailto:rnelson@fortcherry.org)

-Mrs. Nelson

## **Instrumental Music Lessons Gr. 4-6**



### **Guidelines for Instrumental Music Students**

Below are some guidelines for instrumental music students, that can help make playing an instrument more successful. These can also be found in the student lesson and band handbook, too.

1. Always open instrument case on the floor.
2. Handle your instrument with care! There are many breakable parts and repairs can be expensive and time consuming.
3. Do not let anyone else handle or play your instrument unless it your instrumental music teacher.
4. Do not play your instrument on the bus or outside.
5. Always store your instrument in the case when you are not playing it. Before you pick up the case, make sure that it is closed and latched.
6. Never force the lid to close. Make sure everything is in the right place before you close it.
7. Never store music, folders, pencils, or personal items in the case. They may cause damage to the instrument.
8. Never let your instrument get too hot or too cold.
9. Keep your instrument clean.
10. Do not try to repair a broken instrument, wait and show your teacher.

## Elementary Band-Gr. 5/6

Elementary band students please be aware that you will need to remember to bring your instruments for band on days 6 and 1 for practice. Starting in January we will be rehearsing our songs for the Spring concert and we need everyone at every rehearsal with instruments. If possible, please eat breakfast at home in the morning on band days so that we can get every bit of rehearsal time in as possible. It is equally important that you continue to attend your lessons each rotation and continue to practice your music at home. If you are having difficulty or have questions about band or lessons, please contact Mr. or Mrs. Nelson.



**Happy  
New Year!**

# Fundraiser pick up day!!!!



**Pickup at Fort Cherry Elementary  
In the GYM LOBBY**

**When: Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**5pm – 6pm**

If this is a major issue for anyone, please text or email me & we'll come up with an alternative.

Thanks for your support!

Kristin Plance  
Vice President of Fundraising  
Fort Cherry Elementary PTO  
(412) 897-2200 or [kplance16@gmail.com](mailto:kplance16@gmail.com)





# Pancakes with Santa

Follow the link on our Facebook event to sign up for a time slot!

**SATURDAY | DEC 2**

8AM - 12PM @ The  
Elementary Cafeteria

**TICKET: \$10 PER ADULT | \$5 PER CHILD (3-12)**

# EBLAST

## ANGEL TREE 2023

If you are looking to brighten a child's Christmas morning, please consider donating to our Angel Tree this holiday season. We have created an Amazon gift list that you can purchase gifts from to help meet the needs of local families this Christmas season. The gifts will be delivered directly to the school and then sorted for each child. Please follow the directions below if you would like to purchase items from the registry. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation (and let us do the shopping!), you can do that by sending in a check made out to FCSD with Angel Tree in the memo line. You can also donate Amazon or Walmart gift cards. In advance, we would like to thank everyone for their generosity to make our Angel Tree program a success!

**Please mail donations to:** Fort Cherry High School  
Attention: Terri Eiler  
110 Fort Cherry Road  
McDonald, PA 15057

**Link:** <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/30ODJU940077D>

**After adding all items to your cart, be sure to select "Fort Cherry High School ANGEL TREE", which is the gift registry address, as the shipping address. It cannot be shipped to your house. It must be shipped using this address, so it comes DIRECTLY to the school.**

**\*Please order so that all gifts are delivered by  
Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> OR EARLIER\***

**Do you know anyone who is food insecure?**

**Hickory Community Blessing Box now open 24/7!!!!**

**Location: 210 Main St, Hickory, PA 15340**

**“Take what you need. Give what you can. above all, be blessed”**

**Come to the Community Blessing Box located at the Hickory Presbyterian Church!**

**Things you can donate to put in the Blessing Box:**

Non-perishable foods, such as rice, canned foods that are ready to eat, Emergen-C (vitamin C packets), boxed mac & cheese, trail mix, crackers, granola bars, bottled water, instant coffee, cocoa, and cider packets, etc.

Personal items, such as toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, dry shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, menstrual supplies, band-aids, sunscreen (fragrance free), chapstick, hair brush, and hair elastics.

Home goods, such as single rolls of toilet paper, dish soap, and wipes. And even job postings!

Thank you in advance for your help!

Kaitlyn & Christina, Girl Scout Troop 28883





FORT CHERRY YOUTH BASKETBALL

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

# LITTLE DRIBBLERS BASKETBALL CLINIC

Grades K-2,  
Dates: Likely early December

[fortcherryyouthbasketball.com](http://fortcherryyouthbasketball.com)

Email: [fortcherryyouthbasketball@gmail.com](mailto:fortcherryyouthbasketball@gmail.com)

Find us on  [facebook.com/fortcherryyouthbasketball](https://facebook.com/fortcherryyouthbasketball)





# A VERY GEARY CHRISTMAS

 DECEMBER 

SATURDAY 2ND & SUNDAY 3RD

12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**PHOTOS WITH SANTA**

(Santa Arrives At 1:00 )

**BASKET RAFFLE**

**FOOD TRUCK**

**CRAFTING STATION**

**FARM ANIMALS**

**BONFIRE**

**1421 GEARY FARM WAY**

**MCDONALD PA 15057**

1820  
**GEARY FARM**  
MCDONALD, PA

**Free Admission**





Allegheny Health Network

Canonsburg  
Hospital

# Annual **Basket** RAFFLE



**NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> - DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

***TICKET SALES IN MAIN LOBBY***

