

March 2020

Dear Music Students and Families,

I just wanted to reach out to each of you and let you know I have been thinking about you and missing you since we last were together for music class! I hope you have been using this time at home to rest and spend time with your families, and above all, STAY HEALTHY!!

Even though we may not be getting together for a little while for music class, PLEASE keep MUSIC alive in your lives!! It is a blessing that we can experience music in so many ways and in so many places. Not only can we enjoy listening to our favorite kind of music; we can find happiness and fulfillment in making our own music, whether it be by singing or playing an instrument. All of you have an instrument in your voice. Use it to sing songs you already know and to compose your own songs!!

Listed below are some activities and resources that I encourage all of you (families included) to explore over the next several weeks. Many of these activities are very similar to things we would be doing in class at school. Although many of these will require some type of technology, use your imagination if you do not have access to a computer or tablet.

1. Since, as I said we all have our own instrument – our voice……, spend time singing along with some of your favorite songs and focus on matching the singers pitch, just like we do in class when I sing “Hello” to you.

2. Try doing a “listening example” where you simply need paper, pencil, crayons, etc. Find an INSTRUMENTAL only song and as you listen, draw what you feel. Ask yourself what the mood of the song is or draw images that come to mind.

Some examples you may want to listen to include:

“Moonlight Sonata” by Ludwig van Beethoven

“Appalachian Spring” by Aaron Copland

“Tocatta in D Minor” by Johann Sebastian Bach

“Eine Kleine Nachtmusik” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

These are all composers of the month which we have or would be studying in class.

3. Listen to various songs and try to find the steady beat. Show it by clapping, stomping, patting legs, tapping various body parts. Maybe you and a family member could create a fun hand jive to do demonstrating the steady beat. If doing it with another family member, take turns being leader and you imitate their movement.

4. Create a musical instrument. Use things around the house to create music. When you go on a walk, look for objects outside that you might be able to use to create an instrument. Some examples might be shakers, drums, rain sticks, maracas, rhythm sticks. BE CREATIVE!!!! Then use YOUR created instrument to accompany your favorite song and make up some unique rhythmic patterns.

5. MOVE to music!!! Pick a song to move to and MOVE. Think about the TEMPO (is it fast or slow) and the DYNAMICS (is it loud of soft) then let your movement demonstrate what you hear. Have a dance party with your entire family!!!

6. Classic for Kids has GREAT activities for all ages! Students can compose their own music, learn about composers, practice note names, identify instruments in the orchestra, complete activity sheets, and much more! Visit <https://www.classicsforkids.com>.

7. Staff Notation- recommended for students in Grades 3-5. Visit https://www.musicca.com. Click on “Get Started”, and then select “Notes”. Finally, click options under “Treble Clef” for some great review of the letter names for notes on the staff.

8. “Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra” by Benjamin Britten. Click “Local Game” to explore the four families of instruments in the orchestra with this famous song. A game at the end will test your knowledge! <https://listeningadventures.carnegiehall.org>

9. PBS Kids- You will find all kinds of great music games at <https://pbskids.org/games/music>.

10. Sphinx Kids has great music games about instruments, composers, and rhythms.

<http://www.sphinxkids.org>

11. New York Philharmonic Kids has music games as well, but you can also view a concert! Visit https://www.nyphilkids.org and click the TV icon “Watch a Concert”.

12. Music Tech Teacher offers a wide variety of games that can be used as a review of many concepts we have been working on in class. Please visit <http://www.musictechteacher.com>.

13. Music Teacher’s Games, Educational games also offers a variety of games for your child to play. Visit <http://www.musicteachersgames.com>

14. Ultimate List of Online Music Education is a comprehensive list of various

resources for your child. Please visit http://www.cornerstoneconfessions.com

15. Brainpop has fun, interactive movies and activities to teach about musical instruments, famous musicians, genres of music, and other music fundamentals. Please visit http://www.brainpop.com for Grades 2-5 or http://www.brainpopjr.com for Grades

K-2. After watching the movies, there are options to take quizzes, play games or complete other activities. Username: sstufflet Password: music24

16. ABC Mouse was also recommended to me by one of my families. Please visit <http://www.abcmouse.com>

17. Making Music Fun is a wonderful resource for students to read biographies about different composers and watch videos with different listening examples. Please visit <https://makingmusicfun.net>

18. FINALLY…..Pinterest is a wonderful resource for worksheets of all ages. There are pages for younger students to color or trace musical symbols and rhythm addition pages for our older students. So if you are on Pinterest, simply search music worksheets and ENJOY!!

I know this is all overwhelming and I certainly do not expect you to get through everything that I have listed, but I tried to give you numerous resources with much variety to keep your child engaged and thinking about music and living a musical life. MOST IMPORTANT is spend time with your child. Right now, they are just as anxious as we all are and doing some of these activities will mean more to them than if you just send them on their way to do on their own. Many of the activities/games are designed for more than one person. So, HAVE FUN!!!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I would LOVE to hear back from you letting me know what you have been doing to keep music alive in your heart during this time at home. As always, you can reach me by email at sstufflet@lehighton .org.

Please STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY and I look forward to hearing back from many of you and seeing you soon back at LAEC.

Thinking of you fondly,

Mrs. Stufflet

