

Dear St. Elizabeth Families,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I am very excited to be sharing in the experience of making music with your children again this year!

Music is an expressive language for children. Through music class your students will learn to communicate in a different way than any other class. They will improvise, develop creativity, increase confidence and self worth in sharing ideas and performing, learn about different cultures through world music, as well as increase their musical literacy.

Grading and Expectations

Students' grades will be based largely on participation. If they come to class and contribute to the music making experience, they will receive full participation points for the day. Some ways that students may lose points is if they are talking at inappropriate times, are off task, do not act with respect towards everyone in the classroom, or do not behave according to school policy.

There will be various performance tests over songs that we are working on in class throughout each quarter. For these tests students will perform a song alone or in a group and will be graded on melody, rhythm, and expression. If a student would like to retake a test they may come during tutoring times to do "corrections". I am available for tutoring Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 3:30-4:00 pm. Concert attendance will also be counted as a test grade. Students will receive full credit if they attend the concerts in which they are performing at the school. If there is a family conflict on the day of the concert, there will be a make up assignment.

For the conduct grade every student will start at a G (good). If they show exceptional behavior and participation, they may go up to an E (excellent). If there are multiple and recurrent behavior issues, students will have their conduct grade go down. If behavior is a continual problem in the classroom, I will let the parents know via email.

Communication

If you ever need to get in contact with me, my email is eniedbalski@saintspride.com. Please feel free to email me with questions, concerns, or ideas. I will only be able to answer emails during the school day from 7:30 am until 4:00 pm Monday-Friday.

Thank you and I am looking forward to the school year!

Sincerely,

Erin Niedbalski
K-8 Music
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic School