

Whitewater Valley Elementary

General Music – Mr. Frye

Music Brain Bag

Dear WVE music parents,

Here is some information that will hopefully keep your child/children musically occupied during any school closures that may occur. I have been using a Youtube channel in class with every grade level at some point so far this school year. It is called “Visual Musical Minds”, and there are exercises for all grade levels in several areas of general music that are both fun and highly informative. Since the music classes only meet once a week, I’m only asking that you try to get 30 minutes of practice per week. Any additional time is up to you, but I suspect that most (if not all) students might work longer because they are very enjoyable music lessons. This will require computer access as well as some parent supervision for your children to use. Here’s what you’ll need to do:

- Go to Youtube and type “Visual Musical Minds” in the search bar.
- Click on the link at the top of the page with the picture of VMM’s creator Nathan Walby.
- You are now on the VMM page. Find the “Playlists” link along the top bar. The videos are under different categories for the different musical concepts they cover.

Here are the specific assignments for the different grade levels:

- 1st grade – Click on “Rhythm reading videos”. The 1st graders recently worked on these, so some review will be helpful. Start with level one and progress as far as you can. Rhythms can be clapped or tapped with a pencil or pen.
- 2nd grade – These students also worked on “Rhythm reading videos”, so they can do this also. I was going to move to some combinations of playing and singing, so they may also do some work in the “Songs for Singing and Learning” section. Do-Re-Mi in particular is fun!
- 3rd & 4th grade – With our Showcase performance coming up, I would like for the students in these two grades to practice as much as they can on their recorder playing. Go to the “Recorder Songs” section where the 3rd graders will find all five of the songs we were working on for our performance (DON’T FORGET THAT “MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG” ISN’T THERE, BUT “MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB” IS BASICALLY THE SAME). The 4th graders will find “When the Saints Go Marching In” and “Ode to Joy” on this same section. If they wish to work on “Amazing Grace”, they will have to use their sheet music packets to practice that song.
- 5th grade – These students have been working on Bucket Band songs for their performance. They can get some rhythm reading practice using the “Rhythm reading videos” section, but they should find the Intermediate rhythms on the list. There’s also a good rhythm lesson on Syncopation that might be helpful in their rhythm reading efforts. Additionally, if they have their music folders with them, they will be able to practice their actual songs for the performance by finding the following songs—5S “I Feel Good” by James Brown—5Hu “Free Ride” by the Edgar Winter Group—5H either “Sweet Home Alabama” by Lynard Skynard or “Rock Around the Clock” by Bill Haley and the Comets.

Thank you in advance for your understanding in these strange circumstances. If there is any confusion at all about the music lessons on the VMM site, please email me with any questions you have at deron.frye@southwestschools.org

PARENTS -- Please have your child log any time they spend working on their music lessons. Again, I’m asking for 30 minutes of practice, but obviously any extra time spent on this will benefit when classes resume. Also, if your child takes any private music instruction, they may count this as time spent on the practice log.

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Practice log

Students name _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Date # of minutes What did I work on?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

