

Over the first nine weeks our students have covered a lot of material in Music Class. They have been introduced to many of the Elements of Music they will be expected to know this year, and have sung and played many songs and games to help reinforce what they are learning.

Students have been playing and singing many songs from around the world and changing **Rhythms, Dynamics, Tempos, and Timbres** to see the effect of those changes on the sound and the listener. We have also discussed composers and examples of their music that reinforce the Elements we are learning. These include Johann Sebastian Bach and his "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor" as well as Edvard Grieg and his "In the Hall the Mountain King". Ask your student about some interesting facts on these two!

The 4th and 5th graders will soon begin on **Recorders** in class. Recorders are a very old family of woodwind instruments that not only provide a great way to teach beginning instrument technique, but also have a rich collection of music that has been around for centuries.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions about what we are doing as a group or about your student individually. If you have musical talents that you would like to share with our classes, I would love to hear from you as well!

All students are being taught according to the National Arts Standards that were adopted by Kentucky Department of Education in July. These standards are taught through exploration and application rather than rote memorization of vocabulary. The core standards are Creating, Performing/Presenting/Producing, Responding, and Connecting. This core is applied across all the Arts (Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts).

Mr. Ragland
General Music Teacher
Squires Elementary
E-mail: Joe.Ragland@fayette.kyschools.us

