



Haslett Public Schools

Haslett Happenings Around the District

from the desk of **Mallory Voris** (Music Teacher at Ralya Elementary School)

October 13, 2023



Upcoming Calendar Events

October 13

Homecoming Parade (5:30 PM)
Football vs. Waverly (Homecoming)

October 14

HHS Homecoming Dance (7-10 PM)

October 18

HS Student of the Month (7:15 AM)
WECC PTO Meeting (6 PM - Rm 207)

October 19

MS Choir Concert (7:30 PM - PAC)
Murphy Grade 3 Concert (4:30 PM)

October 20

Football vs. Jackson

October 21

Holidays in Haslett Band Craft Show
Haslett High School (9 AM - 3 PM)

October 23

Board of Education Meeting (7 PM)

October 24

Fall Festival of Bands (7 PM - HS Gym)

October 25

HS Choir Concert (8 PM - PAC)

October 26

Ralya Grade 3 Concert (6:30 PM)

October 27

End of Term 1

October 31

High School Halloween Band (12 noon)
Murphy Halloween Parade (1:40 PM)
Ralya Halloween Parade (2:15 PM)

November 1

Murphy Picture Retake Day
Band Boosters (6 PM - HS Media Center)

November 2

National Honor Society Induction
(7 PM - PAC)

The FUNdamentals of Elementary Music Class

Every year when Ralya's 5th graders move on to the middle school, I take a deep breath and get on my soapbox for one last quick, yet emotional, speech. The speech goes something like this:

"When you get to middle school..."

- **Be YOU.** You are important, and your strengths will be seen and heard. There may be pressure to take a certain path, one way or another, but being yourself will always help you find your way.
- **Stay in music.** Whether it's choir or band, continue to learn and share the joy of music with others.
- **If not music, stay active in the arts!** Audition for the play or sign up for art class.
- **I hope you think back to elementary music class as FUN.**

As elementary music teachers, FUN is always at the top of our list. We want to make music so much fun that students almost forget they're learning. Shh...don't tell them our secret! If you were to peek into our music rooms, on any given day, you would probably find kids moving, singing, playing or creating (and sometimes we do it all at once). This comprehensive learning experience gives students a chance to express themselves and their strengths as a learner through multiple mediums. A student who likes to move can "show" the musical phrases through dance, while another student might demonstrate the phrasing through playing an instrument or singing. Some students love to create on the spot by improvising, while others would rather have a visual framework to guide them in composing new music. Although these are two great examples of how students may learn in music class, here are the true skills our young musicians are (secretly) learning and evaluated on daily:

Rhythm - How to read, count, play, and sing rhythmic phrases

Melody - How to sing with solfège (do, re, mi) and read music notes on the treble clef staff

Harmony - Sing 2-3 part harmony and learn chord changes on xylophones and ukuleles

Form - Experience and label musical forms (the form of Twinkle, Twinkle is ABA)

Timbre - Demonstrate age-appropriate vocal technique and learn to play recorder, ukulele, and unpitched (woodblock)/pitched (xylophone) percussion instruments

Movement - Explore time/space/shape/force and various folk dances from around the world

Dynamics - Volume of music (loud vs. quiet)

Tempo - Speed of music (fast vs. slow)

We also include lots of folk and multicultural music, music history, and cross-curricular lessons throughout the year.



So, yes, when your child steps out into the big world of middle school and beyond, one goal is that students think music is fun. But don't be fooled by our silly voices, colorful scarves, and puppets! Underneath all the rainbows and fluff are the fundamentals of music at play. And to know that we can give our students both of these - fun AND fundamentals - is a true joy. With this combo deal, we hope students will appreciate music or continue as a musician for a long while. And maybe, if they really love it, even a lifetime.