

# Meadow Montessori School

## Music Department

What would the world be like without music? Meadow Montessori students will never need to know!

Juniors begin reading music as they learn to play the recorder. Second year Juniors, then, may choose to play a stringed instrument. Studies indicate that studying an instrument nurtures the ability to think imaginatively, improves spatial relationship, and develops hand-finger dexterity.

Moving to the Intermediate level, all students play a stringed instrument---such as the violin, viola, cello, or bass---which continue through the Senior (middle school) years. Seniors may choose a woodwind instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone) instead of---or along with---a stringed instrument. High school students may also continue with music, if they wish.

Additionally, weekly half-hour private piano and string lessons are available at a nominal charge.

As well as learning to play the instrument, these classes also include individual attention, music theory, appreciation, history, listening, composition and performance. Vocal music classes concentrate on tone-matching and development, repertoire, part-singing and sight-reading.

Our December Holiday Program, May Piano Recital and Celebration of the Arts showcase students' progress. Seniors perform individually and in small ensembles for the MMS Solo & Ensemble Festival. Many also participate in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District Festival in Livonia, Michigan, where Meadow Montessori students consistently bring back top awards.

Under the direction of Music Directress, Sandra Lentner, the most all-encompassing musical event each year is the "Opera." It involves, not only all Elementary students in full costume and character—singing, dancing, acting and playing—but, also all teachers and a great number of parent volunteers and MMS alumni.

For enrichment the school annually attends Toledo Symphony concerts. Older students have enjoyed Toledo Opera presentations of "Carmen," "Marriage of Figaro," "Barber of Seville," "Samson and Delilah," and others. Seniors have journeyed to Stratford, Ontario, for stage productions of "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Amadeus."

For many MMS alumni, participating in musical groups continues at the high school and college levels. We, at Meadow Montessori School, are proud to have been a part of their nurturing years.

## **Meadow Montessori School Art Program**

*Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.  
~ Pablo Picasso*

To be considered as a whole person, one must also consider the arts in education. The students at Meadow Montessori are educated in many areas of art beginning as early as the toddler program and progressing through the high school years.

Early art experiences may include simple open-ended cutting and gluing activities. The use of colored pencils and getting the "feel" of paints may also be explored during these exercises.

Upon entering the elementary levels, all students are given formal art instruction through regular art classes in an atmosphere that both accepts and encourages creativity. At all levels, it is the "process" not the "product," that is considered to be most important.

Drawing instruction is the beginning focus for the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior classes. This focus is then revisited several times throughout the school year, as it is the basis for most areas of art. Other mediums used to explore this fundamental skill may include marker, colored pencil, charcoal, different types of paint and printmaking. Three-dimensional art forms may also be explored through sculpture and pottery.

Whenever possible, projects coincide with lessons from other classes, thus integrating two or more courses of study. Often, it is here that art history plays a role.

One of the largest of these integrations occurs during Opera Week when students are involved in the creation of sets and props in our largest musical event of the year.

The culmination of creativity and hard work occurs during the Annual Art Auction. The halls literally explode with nine months of artwork, which allows both the parents and students the opportunity to visualize the progression and the accomplishments of the school year. In addition, we auction off a series of special classroom and class projects to raise money for the art program. A large selection of work is also displayed annually at the Little Red Schoolhouse during the Monroe County Fair in August.

Many of our students excel in all areas of the fine arts, as well as academics. This integration allows these individuals to grow into well-rounded, whole adults and thus, inspired thinkers of their surrounding world.