



Welcome, or welcome back, as the case may be! 2018 is here to stay.

Our “new beginnings” will include a new folder, music theory, and exercise books. Your little red books will help you to keep track of your assignments, **AND** how much you are practicing... Our Christmas Recital went so well! If you took any pictures you could share with me, I would sure appreciate it. I was too busy, myself...Students performed together on several instruments, *Our Nutcracker Sweets Christmas Recital went very well, and I'm SO proud of all of you...and, Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts you gave me...and each one of you is a gift!*

Please enjoy watching and listening to this fabulous bell choir play the Nutcracker March for laughs!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=related&v=1mLG_g5poDg&app=desktop

We had several contest winners, who earned prizes for special efforts. They are:

Most Instruments Played – Esther Quackenbush, and Raphael Immanuel 5 each

Most Songs Played – Esther Quackenbush, Hector & Amanda Rolan, Monica & Samaria Clark 7

Most Rehearsals Attended – Hector and Amanda Rolan 27

Newest Students – Rachel Rodriguez, Brolin Fields, Wade Michael 4 months

Raffle Winners – Brolin Fields, Harp, Kenneth Patuwo, Violin, Rachel Rodriguez, 1 Month's Lessons

January – I am having fun planning more musical adventures for us this year. First of all, we will start preparing for the Scale Olympics to be held during your lesson time, and awards and trophies will be given out at our Classical Spring Recital.

February – We will be introducing the Classical music of J.S. Bach and friends! We will be learning more about the music that was written for the Harpsichord, Organ, Cello, Violin, Flute, and Guitar, before the Piano was even invented! Each student will be put into an ensemble in preparation for our Classical Spring Recital.

March – We will be continuing our Classical studies with J.S. Bach and friends in preparation for our Spring Recital, in the Orchestra Room of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, on Friday evening, May 4th. We will start adding free, extra group lessons each week for these classical ensembles, Intermediate Bell Choir, Children's Choir, Piano Horn Reeds and Flutes, Classical Guitars and Harps, and our Junior Orchestra.

April – The Talent Development Groups will continue to rehearse together for our Spring Recital performances, and our Soloists will be featuring Classical Music, and our Scale Olympics Winners.

May 4th will be our “Back to Bach” Spring Recital, and Scale Olympics Awards. . We will be doing scales, chords and arpeggios. Each student will be given a list of appropriate level challenges for their instrument, and earn a trophy for musical achievement. All music is based on a system of “keys”, and the scales and chords of each key “unlock” the music! This will be our last month of lessons for the semester, and then there will be:

June and July – Join us for Summer Music Lesson Specials. Buy one, Get one Free. Because this is a great time to try out a new instrument for a month or two, you can continue taking lessons, and get a second lesson on a different instrument for free. Instrument rentals are only \$25 a month, and all payments will go toward the purchase, if you want to keep playing through the school year.

Happy New Year! Miss Laurel