

August 24, 2011

Dear St. Peter's Parents and Family,

Welcome back to another exciting year! I am looking forward to a wonderful, music-filled year! There have been many changes over the summer—the music room was painted; guitars were hung on the walls; new carpets were brought in; furniture was moved; a new music website was launched; and I became a married lady! I am excited to now be Jessica Horner, though I still respond more quickly to Jessica Carmichael! Please come check out the music room; it is a bright and vibrant place of learning. Also, please visit the SPS music website: <http://sites.google.com/site/spsmusick8/home>. There are many things happening in the music room, and now you can be a part of it all! Plus, I have listed great music games, quizzes, and activities for your child to play at home on the "Useful Websites" page.

Please note the many music opportunities your child will have outside of class. All 6th-8th graders are invited to become song leaders or instrumentalists during our All School Masses. Mandatory workshops will be held on August 30th and August 31st from 3:30-4:45 for those interested. Enrichment choirs will be starting soon! Our youngest choir will be preparing the musical "Stone Soup-a 'Rock' Opera." Songbird will be writing and performing a musical. We will also be unveiling one more choir for those interested in a more traditional choral alternative.

Please note what your child will be studying this quarter:

Kindergarten: steady beat, movement to music, music of Stephen Foster, identifying nature sounds, the difference between a whisper, a speaking voice, and a singing voice, opposites such as high and low, fast and slow, loud and soft, Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, the life of Johann Sebastian Bach

First and Second Grades: musical alphabet books, dynamics, music of Stephen Foster, historical American songs, Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, the life of Johann Sebastian Bach, a repertoire of songs for Mass

Third Grade: rhythm review, constructing a measure, music of John Williams (from films *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars*), musical alphabet books, patriotic music, Holst's *Planets Suite*, ties in music

Fourth Grade: rhythm review, music reading review, music of John Williams (from films *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars*), musical alphabet books, American folk music, Holst's *Planets Suite*, meter guides

Fifth Grade: rhythm review, music reading review, music of John Williams (from films *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars*), American folk music, Holst's *Planets Suite*, meter graphic organizers, rondo raps

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades: rhythm review, music of Danny Elfman, *Stomp!* and "create your own Stomp! music video," Leonard Bernstein, meter graphic organizers, the science of sound, Bluegrass music, and build-your-own instruments

I hope your children are as excited as I am for all the learning that is planned for this year. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to lend your musical abilities to our music classroom! We can always use a helper.

Thanks so much for all that you do.

Best,

Jessica Carmichael Horner