

Hello Bolton families!

My name is Maria Rivera and I am the new music teacher at Bolton and Sunset Primary Schools. Last year, I had the pleasure of being a local substitute in the area and spent time in many different classrooms at various levels. This year, I am beyond excited to have the opportunity to work with your students and make music with them in the classroom! Every class sees me for 30 minutes of music twice a week and I teach at Bolton Primary on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Here is a brief look at what we have learned so far:

Kindergarten-2nd grade: We learned one echo song (Hello Song) where students demonstrated that they could listen to a musical example and mimic it using the correct pitches and tempo. We also incorporated learning through musical play by taking a song we learned and playing a modified version of duck-duck-goose. The goal of this game was to encourage singing together as well as keeping the steady beat as the one going around the circle.

3rd-5th grade: Older classes have also learned how to sing the “Hello Song,” but have been practicing using Curwen hand signs while singing it. Curwen hand signs help students visualize where the notes are and are a tool for singing solfege (do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do’). Students also performed individually for their classmates using a fun movement song called “Jump in, Jump out.”

All Classes: This week, every class learned about the Mid-Autumn Festival, a Chinese holiday that was celebrated by many Asian countries on September 10th. This was a great opportunity for students to learn about instruments from different cultures and about the music that is played to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. Students heard the Erhu, Sanxian, Pipa, and Guzheng being played and they critically listened to a song in a different language and began to identify the main beat to it.

Hello Song: Here, you will find a link to a tutorial on how to sing the “Hello Song,” that students have been working on in music: <https://www.wlwg.k12.or.us/Domain/3961>
You can also access it on the music page that is located on the Bolton Primary website. You can find it under the tabs “Classrooms” → “Maria Rivera (Music Teacher)” → “Songs.”

If you have any questions regarding music class or would like additional information on what your student’s grade level will be focusing on in music, please feel free to email me at riveram@wlwg.k12.or.us. I am looking forward to a year full of music with your students!

Sincerely,

Ms. Rivera