

At Lebanon Middle School, we strive to teach our students the art of *listening*, *performing*, and *composing* music. As *listeners* of music, we expose students to all genres of music, ranging from classical to rock & roll. Students in music class are *performers* of music daily but we want students to experience the art of *composing* music, as it would allow them the opportunity to express themselves through their own written music.

Our class theme this year is "Feeling Groovy with the Beatle's", which is centered around an upcoming field trip to see a live performance of Beatles' music by the Cincinnati Symphony Pops Orchestra. This performance is significant to our students because our school population consists of 76% At-Risk students. Most of these students have never experienced a live concert performance of quality programming. We also want to introduce students to music composition. Our feeling is that by allowing students to compose their own music, it would help them to express themselves and better deal with their emotions. At-Risk students especially need to have the opportunity to express themselves. Following is a brief overview of our intended unit on music composition:

"Behind the Glasses"

The students will listen to The Beatles' *In My Life*, as John Lennon wrote of his friends and how they affected his life. After discussing lyrics, students will be analyze the meaning of his song or what was going on "Behind the Glasses" of John Lennon as he composed.

Students will compose their own song lyrics about *their* lives, the individuals they have met in their lifetime and the impact those individuals have had on their own life. These compositions will be entered in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, in hopes that a students' life might be enriched, much like John Lennon's life was impacted by his musical compositions.

In order to complete our unit "Behind the Glasses", we are in need of music writing software. This software would be most beneficial to students in their quest to enrich their own lives.

Item to be Purchased with Grant Money

Finale\$500.00

(Music Software program with composition, performance and listening capabilities)