



The Ben Murch “Festival of Lights”

Wednesday, December 17th, 2025

Pre-Kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades (**showtime at 9:15 AM**)

Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grades (**showtime at 10:45 AM**)

As Murch’s music teacher, I would like to cordially invite everyone to attend our annual “Festival of Lights” event on December 17th for Pre-Kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades (**showtime at 9:15AM**) and for kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grades (**showtime at 10:45AM**).

The event will highlight traditions and customs from around the world. Each year it will be my goal to reaffirm, through music, that we are part of a larger community, one with people of many faiths and beliefs. Although different, the celebrations featured in “Festival of Lights” have many things in common. Many of the celebrations are filled with light, which symbolizes birth and rebirth. Light takes away darkness and represents hope. Our 9:15 AM performance will also include a procession by our Pre-Kindergarten classes: people moving forward together, toward a future of peace, freedom, and unity.

Each grade level will perform a song with props and sets that represent each song and culture. The goal of this performance is for every child to perform on stage in front of a live audience. While I conduct on stage, concert pianist Toni Roche of Alexandria, Virginia will accompany Murch students.

My final request is that all students dress according to the style and theme of his or her grade level. Please take time to read about the concert attire (on page 2/reverse), so you can plan early and accordingly. Hopefully, the information that I have provided gives you an understanding of what I aim to accomplish as we celebrate our “Festival of Lights.” Please call the school office and leave a message with the office staff at (202) 282-0130 or email me if you have any questions. Finally, don’t forget to save the date: December **17th, 2025, at 9:15 AM (Pre-K, 3rd, 4th, and 5th) and 10:45 AM (K, 1st, and 2nd)**. We hope every family will join us for Murch’s “Festival of Lights” performance!

Musically,

Dr. Eugene Branch, Jr.

eugene.branch@k12.dc.gov

Festival of Lights Attire

Please read carefully.

All Pre-Kindergarten Classes

***Murch is committed to gender inclusivity. Please choose the option below that works best for your family.*

***If you have problems finding white dresses, please just do your best to accommodate the request.*

Pre-K Girls

Solid white dresses or white top and white skirt/bottom

Solid white tights

Solid black or white comfortable dress or causal shoes

Pre-K Boys

Solid white dress shirt, or white turtleneck

Dark blue or black bottoms

Solid black or brown casual or dress shoes

All Kindergarten Classes

Festive holiday attire/dress attire and shoes

All First Grade Classes

Solid red turtleneck, shirt, or sweater

Blue jeans

Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes

Solid black socks

All Students in 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Grade Classes

Solid white long sleeve shirt, turtleneck, or blouse

Solid black bottoms

Solid black socks

Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes

All 4th Grade Classes

Solid "BLACK" long sleeve shirt or turtleneck

Solid black bottoms

Solid black socks

Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes