

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

We will sing our national anthem together during the program. Please familiarize the students with the words.



The American national anthem was inspired by the Star-Spangled Banner, a flag that was sewn by Mary Pickersgill of Baltimore, and was flown over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The flag was 42 feet by 40 feet, the largest flag to be flown during a battle. When the fort was attacked by a British fleet on September 13, 1814, a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key witnessed the valiant fight. He was inspired to write the words that were to become our national anthem. Key used an old English melody called *To Anacreon in Heaven* to set the timing of his words. It was not until 1916 that President Wilson gave an executive order to make "The Star-Spangled Banner" our national anthem. In 1931 it was confirmed by an act of Congress. The tradition of singing the national anthem at sporting events started at the World Series of 1918 during World War I. To honor the American soldiers fighting in the war, the band played it during the seventh-inning stretch.

The Star-Spangled Banner

Words by Francis Scott Key

Oh, say can you see
By the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home
Of the brave?