

MOUNT SINAI UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

MUSIC, FINE & APPLIED ARTS

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD, MOUNT SINAI, NEW YORK 11766

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Christina Romeo
*Assistant Principal/
Director of Music & Applied Arts*

Gordon Brosdal
Superintendent of Schools

September 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

We are excited to begin the 2020-21 school year. Although this year will be unlike any other, our department is committed to providing music instruction and performance opportunities to our students.

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize you with all of our performing ensembles, and to eliminate any confusion as to what is necessary to be a successful music student at the middle school. Contained within are detailed explanations of our grading policy, rehearsal and performance requirements, concert dates, and all activities and groups sponsored by our department. Attached is a tentative schedule of concerts and events. Decisions regarding in-person concerts and events will be determined at a later date and will adhere to state and local guidelines as well as district policies.

Please read the information carefully, and sign and return the form which was distributed by the music teachers. If you have any questions or would like to meet with any member of the department, please do not hesitate to call. The Middle School number is 631-870-2765 .

We look forward to working with our student musicians and wish you all the best for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Christina Romeo

HS Assistant Principal &
Director of Music & Applied Arts

Brian Mankuta
Band 5 & 7 Director

Michael Sheedy
6 Band Director

Michael Sillman
8 Band & 6 Orch. Director

Ronald Feinberg
7 & 8 Orchestra Director

Tricia Panasci
5 Orchestra Director

Kathryn Toolan
5/6 & 7/8 Choral Director

CR/cm
Attachment

Mount Sinai Middle School Music Department

Student Handbook

Philosophy and Goals

In every culture, music plays an important role in the quality of life. Music education can be a means to instruct in both our culture and those foreign to us. Music education can also be a method by which students can personally enrich their lives through self expression, problem solving and aesthetic development.

Our Middle School mission statement asserts that, "our programs will build on the unique characteristics and needs of Middle level students to promote academic excellence and personal/social development." With this in mind, the goals of the Middle School music program are:

1. The student will acquire knowledge of both his/her culture and of other cultures foreign to their own.
2. The student will develop strong techniques through lessons and ensemble performing.
3. The student will learn cooperation and respect by being a part of a performing organization. Each member is an important part of the whole, and success is dependent upon each member's participation.
4. To encourage all students to participate, in some capacity, in one or more of our performing organizations.

PERFORMING GROUPS:

Band, Chorus, Orchestra

These are our major ensembles which meet during the school day. These groups are broken down by grades 5/6 and 7/8 in chorus and 5 orchestra, 6 orchestra, 7/8 orchestra, and grades 5, 6, 7 and 8 in band. In addition, we have the Jazz Band and Jazz Choir which meet outside of the school day. Membership in the Jazz Band and Jazz Choir is determined by auditions, which take place at the beginning of the school year. Music is a required class for all 7th grade students. If a 7th grade student is not involved in one of the performing groups, they will be placed in a general music class.

Only those students registered for and participating in the ensemble rehearsals will be permitted to perform at the annual concerts.

Honor Organizations

- 1) SCMEA Division I - sponsored by the Suffolk County Music Educators Association. Students in Grades 5 and 6 are chosen from eastern Suffolk County by a committee of SCMEA members using teacher recommendations and NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble results. The school is responsible for participation fees.
- 2) SCMEA Division II - sponsored by the Suffolk County Music Educators Association. Students in Grades 7 and 8 are chosen from eastern Suffolk County by a committee of SCMEA members using teacher recommendations and NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble results. The school is responsible for participation fees.
- 3) LISFA - sponsored by the Long Island String Festival Association. This String Orchestra is comprised of Middle School students from all of Suffolk County. Membership is based upon NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble results and teacher recommendations.
- 4) NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival - This festival, sponsored by the New York State School Music Association, is designed to give students an opportunity to perform and be evaluated as a soloist. Students participating in this festival choose a solo from a designated list, prepare the solo with the help of their teacher and perform their solo for one adjudicator. Additional performing requirements include a sight reading example and scales. Participation in this festival is helpful in gaining membership to the above-mentioned honor groups.

Expectations

Music

Each student will be assigned a numbered folder and printed music to be performed at the upcoming concert. Each student is responsible for this music. If the music is lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for the cost of replacing it. All markings in the music must be made in pencil.

Attendance

Concerts - Attendance at all concerts is mandatory. The only exceptions are for legitimate excuses (i.e. illness, death in the family). All of our concert dates are published well in advance on the district calendar and in this handbook. Vacation plans, work or sports schedules will not be considered legitimate excuses. Please contact the music teacher as soon as possible if a problem concerning attendance at a concert is foreseen. **Any unexcused absence from a concert will result in a dramatically reduced grade.**

It is also necessary for performing organizations to rehearse at the high school during the school day prior to a performance. Students are bused to and from the high school, and the amount of time out of class is kept to a minimum. A schedule of these rehearsals will be sent home before the concert season begins.

Lessons - Lessons are an important part of membership in any of our ensembles (with the exception of 5/6 chorus and grade 8 chorus). Each teacher develops a weekly lesson rotating schedule. This schedule ensures that a student will only miss the same academic class once a month. These lessons are the time when students concentrate on the technical aspects of their instrument or voice that enable them to achieve in the large organization.

Seating and Solo Auditions

All seating and solos in any ensemble will be decided by audition. The outcome of these auditions are the sole responsibility of the teacher in charge. All decisions are final.

Grading

Grading for ensembles is based upon participation, performances, and lesson attendance. For each marking period, each student will receive a lesson grade (50%), performance grade (25%) and a class participation grade (25%). These three grades are averaged together to form the final average for the quarter. Various other grades may be incorporated into your final grade at the discretion of the instructor, such as folder checks, exams, quizzes, etc

Participation Grade

For each rehearsal, a student will receive a participation grade of 2 or 0. This grade is based on participation, preparedness and behavior.

At the end of the marking period, all the daily grades will be added up and that will be the participation grade for that quarter (Based on a 10 week, 5 days a week schedule, a student who receives all two's will receive a 100.)

Performance Grade - Playing exams will be given at least once every quarter. Students will be asked to prepare sections of music that will be graded. Students may also be asked to sight-read, play scales, or play etudes at the discretion of the teacher. Written tests may also be included in this portion of the grade.

Lesson Grade - All students will receive a weekly lesson grade based on a 100 point scale. All Students will attend a maximum of two lessons (1 regularly scheduled lesson, 1 make-up) per week. Lessons that are not made up in a timely manner will result in a lesson grade reduction. If the lesson is not made up by the end of the quarter, the student will receive a grade of 0 for that particular lesson.

Concert Dress

The following is to be worn at all performances by all ensembles, unless otherwise directed by the instructor:

Boys- Black pants, black shoes, dark socks, white shirt.

Girls- Black dress pants, white shirt, black shoes (no skirts or capris)

SNEAKERS OR FLIP-FLOPS ARE NOT TO BE WORN AT CONCERTS

If you have any questions or concerns regarding proper concert dress, please do not hesitate to contact us a 631-870-2700.

TENTATIVE MOUNT SINAI MUSIC DEPARTMENT CALENDAR 2020-21

****Decisions regarding in-person concerts and events will be determined at a later date and will adhere to state and local guidelines as well as district policies.*

Friday, November 6	SCMEA Tuba Day @ Central Islip
Tuesday, December 1	Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction, 7:00 P.M. @HS
Tuesday, December 8	MS Winter Concert (5 Orchestra, 5 Band, 5/6 Chorus) 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 9	MS Winter Concert (7/8 Orchestra, 7/8 Chorus, 8 Band) 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 10	MS Winter Concert (6 Band, 7 Band, 6 Orchestra) 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 14	HS Winter Concert #1 (Concert Band, String Orchestra) 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 15	HS Winter Concert #2 (Concert Orch, Chorus, Sym. Band) 7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 16	ES Winter Concert (Band, Orch. & Chorus Informance) 7:00 p.m.
Friday, January 8	SCMEA Day of Percussion
Friday, January 8	LISFA Secondary Rehearsal 4:00-9:00 p.m. Hauppauge HS
Saturday, January 9	LISFA Secondary Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.-2:00p.m.. Hauppauge HS
Sunday, January 10	LISFA Secondary Festival Concert 1:00 p.m. Hauppauge HS
Friday, January 15	SCMEA Day of Horn @Northport HS
Friday, January 22	LISFA Intermediate Rehearsal 4:00-8:00 p.m. Longwood HS
Saturday, January 23	LISFA Intermediate Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Longwood HS
Saturday, January 23	LISFA Intermediate (Gr. 6) Concert. 2:00 p.m. Longwood HS
Sunday, January 23	LISFA Intermediate (Gr. 5, 7&8) Concert. 1:00 pm Longwood HS
Sunday, January 31	LISFA Chamber Festival 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Staller Center
Tuesday, February 9	MS POPS Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10	HS American Music Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 11	District Wide String Festival, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 22	HS Ensemble Concert, 7:00 p.m. @HS Library
Thursday, February 25	NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County Rehearsal #1 3:00 p.m. Northport
Friday, February 26	NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County Rehearsal #2 9:00 a.m. Northport
Friday, February 26	NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County Concert 7:00 p.m. Northport
Tuesday, March 2	MS/HS Jazz Night, 7:00 p.m
Thursday, March 4	ES Music Information Night, 7:00 p.m. @ES Cafetorium
Saturday, March 6, 12, 13	SCMEA Div. I, II, II Rehearsals (time & place TBA)
Saturday, March 13	SCMEA Div. III Concert 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 14	SCMEA Div. I & II Concerts 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday, March 15	NYSSMA Piano Festival Riverhead (time TBA)
Friday, April 9	NYSSMA Jazz/Guitar/Drum set Festival @W. Islip
Fri.-Sat., April 16-17	NYSSMA Solo & All-State Festival @Longwood
Thurs.-Sat., April 22-24	High School Musical

Monday, May 17	HS Spring Concert #1 (String Orchestra, Concert Band), 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19	NYSSMA Instrumental Majors @ West Islip
Wednesday, May 19	MS Spring Concert (5 Band, 5 Orchestra, 5/6 Chorus), 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 20	NYSSMA Choral Majors @ West Islip
Thursday, May 20	ES Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 25	HS Spring Concert #2 (Symp Band, Chorus, Concert Orch.), 7:00
Wednesday, June 2	MS Spring Concert (7/8 Orchestra, 7/8 Chorus, 8 Band) 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 3	MS Spring Concert (6 Band, 7 Band, 6 Orchestra) 7:00