



September 11, 2011

Dear Parents/Students:

Welcome to a new year of music! We have many exciting things planned for this year, and I am looking forward to seeing the musical progress we will make this year. Please read through the information below; I have outlined the year with my expectations for the students and our events – some are required and others are optional.

Concert Outfits: The students will be sized for their concert attire over the next two weeks, if they did not complete this during placement/auditions. The ladies have formal dresses and the young men have tuxedos. A letter will go home detailing care of the outfits, as well as a usage agreement. Please sign it, along with your student, and return it to me as soon as you can. Some of the outfits need to be ordered, and will be given to your student as soon as they are in.

Student Expectations: Students need to bring their instruments, music, and a pencil to class every week. Students are expected to practice their instrument throughout the week. Ideally, they should be practicing at least 30 minutes a day for at least 5 days a week. The most effective practice schedule is designed for practicing each day for a set time. Practicing for shorter time periods each day is better than longer time periods a couple of days each week. I would recommend that the practice time include scales and technical studies, orchestra music, and any other solo music that is being worked on – including music being prepared for private lessons.

Grading: Grades/HS credit is available for this class, and will be based on the following criteria:

- Class participation, preparation, behavior & attendance will be 40%.
- Concert and Festival participation/attendance will be 30%.
- Assessments – both formal (announced performance test) and informal (assessment that occur as I am listening throughout class/rehearsal/performances) will be 20%.
- Practice records will be 10%.

Grades are based on the work and improvement that the student has shown, not on their musical ability since each student has varying amounts of experience. If a student participates in Solo & Ensemble Festival, MSBOA All-State Orchestra or Band, MHSMNet All- State Band or Orchestra, or any other Honors Band or Orchestra, they will receive extra credit towards their grade because that involves a significant time investment outside of class.

Required events:

- December Concert – **Waterford – Monday, December 12, 2011 – Clarkston Community Church**
Troy – Tuesday, December 13, 2011 – Rochester Church of Christ
- MSBOA District IV HS Solo & Ensemble Festival – **February 3 & 4, 2012** - the required participation is our chamber ensemble.

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- Pre – Festival Concert – **Wednesday, March 7, 2012** – Waterford Kettering PAC
Note: This is a joint concert for ALL OHMI students – both campuses
- MSBOA Band & Orchestra Festival – **March 14-15, 2012**. Please keep the dates open. I will know the specific date and our location will be Waterford Kettering High School.
- May Concert – **Waterford – Monday, May 21, 2012 – Clarkston Community Church**
Troy – Tuesday, May 22, 2012 – Rochester Church of Christ

Optional events: (suggested, but not required)

- MSBOA All-State Auditions – registration is September 27; auditions are October 29-30, 2011. Rehearsals and performance are January 19-21, 2012 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- MSBOA District IV MS Solo & Ensemble Festival – December 3, 2011; registration deadline is September 27, 2011
- MSBOA District IV HS Solo & Ensemble Festival – February 3 & 4, 2012; Optional for the solos and small ensembles - registration deadline is November 1, 2011
- MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble Festival – March 24, 2012; registration deadline is February 7, 2012 with qualifying Division I rating from District Solo & Ensemble Festival
- MSBOA District IV MS Solo & Ensemble Festival – April 14, 2012; registration deadline is January 31, 2012
- MHSMNet All-State Home School Band & Orchestra – To be announced
- Homeschool Solo & Ensemble – April 14, 2012 at Spring Arbor University

Please avoid planning vacations around the concerts and Band and Orchestra Festival. We need all the ensemble members there for the concert/festival as this is a group effort and requires everyone! (This is the reason I am listing the dates for you now.) Band and Orchestra Festival will be Wednesday or Thursday during the day this year. I will send home more information as soon as it is available. If we qualify for State Band and Orchestra Festival, it will be at Waterford Kettering on April 27 or 28, 2012.

Solo & Ensemble Festival – is for students wishing to prepare a solo, duet, trio, etc. for adjudicators to be rated. This is OPTIONAL but strongly encouraged, and will require preparation time outside of class. I encourage all students wanting to go to do so for the experience. Please see me for questions on Festival.

I am excited about this year and am looking forward to working with your young musicians. Please contact me with any questions.

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