



September 12, 2011

Dear Parents,

It is always an exciting time of year for me when OHMI starts again. I hope that it is the same for you and your child. We are blessed here to be able to give your child an introduction to music and to, hopefully, create in them a love for it that will last a lifetime.

To make our year run smoothly, there are a few items for which you need to be aware. They are as follows:

### **Class Participation**

Each Intermediate Orchestra Student will receive an Essential Elements Book 2 on the first day of class. There will be weekly assignments from this book and the students will also have an assignment sheet sent home each week so they know what to be working on outside of class. We do not have the time to go over every exercise in the Essential Elements book in class and it is very important for the students to work through the book and practice all assigned music faithfully at home. We do not just work on music for each concert, but also concentrate heavily on learning to play together as a group and continue to develop the basic skills learned in Beginning Orchestra.

### **Concerts and Concert Attire**

We will participate in three concerts this year. **The first concert is our holiday concert which is scheduled for Mon, Dec. 12, 2011. Our spring concert is scheduled for Mon., May, 21, 2012.**

The younger groups, which includes Intermediate Orchestra, will perform their own “**Showcase**” concert in March. This will take place on a **regular OHMI class day on March 5, 2012**. We will perform for parents and friends and we will have more freedom to show what we have been learning so you can enjoy our presentation in a smaller environment. This means that we **do not** participate in the Pre-Festival Concert scheduled on March 7, 2012 at Waterford Kettering High School.

For each concert, including the Showcase, the students are required to wear an OHMI polo/blouse along with black bottoms. For girls it is the OHMI blouse, with a below-the-knee length black skirt, black tights, and black shoes. For the boys, it is the OHMI polo, with black dress trousers, black socks, and black shoes. No tennis shoes or sneakers, please. For more specifics on the dress code, please see the handbook. For new students, if you have not done so already, please make sure that you get your child’s polo ordered as soon as possible. For returning students, please make sure that you check NOW to make sure his/her polo fits properly and is in good condition. It is also advisable to check to make sure that you have the other

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necessary dress code items in plenty of time before the concert so there is no scrambling the week before we perform.

## **Building Matters**

For the safety of our children and the care of the facility with which we rent, there are a few matters of which I will address.

Children under 12 need to be supervised and not left unattended. They are not allowed outside without an adult. There are blind spots in the parking lots and it is easy for a little body to scoot between a car and not be seen by vehicles dropping off and picking up students.

Also, if you or your child sees someone treating the building in a disrespectful way, please report it to another teacher or OHMI staff member.

I am sure that there will be other questions that arise throughout the year. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to talk to me. I do teach classes back-to-back so it is sometimes difficult to catch me before and after class, however, I can always be reached by email. My email address is [mrslewis@ohmimusic.com](mailto:mrslewis@ohmimusic.com). We have made some changes in our website this year (check it out, it looks great!) and also our email server. I always like to make sure things are running smoothly, so if you could send me a quick email within the next week or two, that would be greatly appreciated. Just a quick “hello” would be enough. This will also help me to gather contact information more easily should I need to send out reminders or specific information.

Again, I look forward to a great year of music.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Lewis