

Mount Sinai Elementary School

Music Department

September 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

We, in the Music Department, are happy to welcome you to another exciting year at the Mount Sinai Elementary School.

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 elementary 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.

Please read the information carefully, and sign and return the form given to you by your child. If you have any questions or would like to meet with any member of the department, please do not hesitate to call. The Elementary School number is 631-870-2600 .

We look forward to seeing you at our performances and wish you all the best for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Roberts
Director of Music & Applied Arts

Tricia Panasci
4 Orchestra Director

James Malone
3/4 Choral Director

Robert Moriarty
4 Band Director

LMR/cm
Attachment

Mount Sinai Elementary 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 Elementary School mission statement asserts that we aim, "to provide students with the academic and social opportunities that will enable them to become productive and responsible individuals in our society." With this in mind, the goals of the Elementary 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.

Band, Chorus, Orchestra

These are our major ensembles which meet before school, following the schedule listed below. These groups perform two concerts each year, one in the Winter and one in the Spring. Not all students will perform in the Winter concert, however; the Winter Chorus consists of fourth graders only. The band and orchestra use a select number of students for the “mini” band or orchestra. Students will be notified of auditions and/or placement in these groups by their respective music teacher. All participating students perform in the Spring Concert.

Only students participating in the morning ensemble rehearsals will be permitted to perform in the Winter and/or Spring concerts.

Monday – Chorus	8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.
Tuesday - Band	8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.
Wednesday – Chorus	8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.
Thursday – Orchestra	8:00 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

Note: “Mini” groups meet October to December. Full groups meet January to May.
Parents are to provide transportation to all before-school rehearsals.

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. In elementary school, participation in this festival is by teacher recommendation.

Expectations

Music

Band and Orchestra: Each student should bring in a 3-ring binder to be used for lesson books and printed music to be performed at the upcoming concert. Each student is responsible for this binder at each lesson and rehearsal. If the materials are lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for the cost of replacing them.

Chorus: Each student should bring in a folder to be used for printed music to be performed at the upcoming concert. Each student is responsible for this folder at each rehearsal. If the materials are lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for the cost of replacing them.

Attendance

Concerts - No student may participate in any after school activity (concerts) on a day in which they are absent from school. In addition, any student leaving school for reasons other than medical, legal, or educational/school related will not be allowed to participate in any after-school activities regardless of the time that he/she returns to school. 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 for missing a concert. Please contact the music teacher as soon as possible if a problem concerning attendance at a concert is foreseen.

Lessons – Lessons are an important part of membership in our instrumental ensembles. Each teacher develops a weekly lesson rotating schedule. This schedule ensures that a student will only miss the same academic period once every six weeks. Students shall be held responsible for attending their scheduled music lesson and making up any classroom assignments missed while attending their music lesson. These lessons are the time when students concentrate on the technical aspects of their instrument that enable them to achieve success in the large organization. If it becomes necessary for a child to miss their scheduled music lesson (e.g. field trip, special class presentation, etc.) the classroom and music teacher will arrange for make-up lessons.

Grading

Grading for music is based upon participation, performance, and lesson attendance. For each marking period, each student will receive a grade of S (satisfactory), N (needs improvement), or U (unsatisfactory). In addition, comments may be added to indicate more specific achievements or needs.

Transportation

In a continued effort to ensure the safety of our students, contracted district transportation guidelines and safety protocols mandate that instruments that do not fit safely on a student's lap (no longer than a clarinet) may not be transported on a bus. Please contact your child's music teacher to arrange a drop off/pick up at the school during, before and after school hours.

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 at 631-870-2600.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CALENDAR 2019-20

November 1	SCMEA Tuba Day
November 6, 14, 15	NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Festival
December 3	Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction, 7:00 P.M. @HS
December 4	MS Winter Concert (5 Orchestra, 5 Band, 5/6 Chorus) 7:00 p.m. @HS
December 5	MS Winter Concert (7/8 Orchestra, 7/8 Chorus, 8 Band) 7:00 p.m.@HS
December 5-8	NYSSMA All-State Conference
December 11	MS Winter Concert (6 Band, 7 Band, 6 Orchestra) 7:30 p.m. @HS
December 12	HS Winter Concert #1 (Concert Band, String Orchestra) 7:30 p.m. @HS
December 17	HS Winter Concert #2 (Concert Orchestra, Chorus, Symphonic Band) 7:30 p.m.@HS
December 19	ES Winter Concert (Band, Orchestra & Chorus Informance) 7:30 p.m.@HS
January 4	LISFA Chamber Festival @Stony Brook
January 10-12	LISFA Secondary Festival (Grs. 8-12)
January 17	SCMEA Day of Horn
January 24-26	LISFA Intermediate Festival (Grs.5-7) @Northport HS
February 11	MS POPS Concert, 7:00 p.m.@HS
February 12	HS American Music Concert, 7:00 p.m. @HS
February 13	District Wide String Festival, 7:00 p.m. @HS
February 27	HS Ensemble Concert, 7:00 p.m. @HS Library
March 5	ES Music Information Night, 7:00 p.m. @ES Cafetorium
March 7, 13, 14	SCMEA Division I, II & III Rehearsals
March 26-28	High School Musical
March 27-28	NYSSMA Jazz/Guitar/Drum-set Solo Festival, @W. Islip
April 14	MS/HS Jazz Night, 7:00 p.m. @HS
April 20	NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival @HS
April 24	SCMEA Day of Percussion
April 30	NYSSMA Instrumental Majors Festival @Mt. Sinai HS
May 15	HS Honors Art Show, 7:00 p.m.@HS
May 20	HS Spring Concert #1 (String Orchestra, Concert Band), 7:30 p.m.@HS
May 27	MS Spring Concert (5 Band, 5 Orchestra, 5/6 Chorus), 7:00 p.m. @HS
May 28	HS Spring Concert #2 (Symphonic Band, Concert Orchestra), 7:30 p.m.@HS
May 29	NYSSMA All-State Solo Festival, Riverhead
June 2	HS Music & Art Banquet, 6-10 p.m.
June 3	ES Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.@HS
June 4	HS Choral Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m.@HS
June 8	MS Spring Concert (7/8 Orchestra, 7/8 Chorus, 8 Band) 7:00 p.m.@HS
June 9	MS Spring Concert (6 Band, 7 Band, 6 Orchestra) 7:00 p.m.@HS