Middle School Guide
2013-2014

FOREWORD
Welcome to EA’s 6th Grade and MS Orchestras! Thank you for making music an important part of your day. There are a lot of exciting opportunities this year, and I know that you will all take to the challenges and have a wonderful time doing so.

Music is a universal language. This means that it allows peoples of varying backgrounds and cultures to communicate on a single level. Music serves as an irreplaceable guide as we work to understand and accept each other on a daily basis. Learn. Allow yourself to take full advantage of the resources that you are afforded. There is so much beauty in the world but, as we zoom through our daily lives, it is often overlooked. This year, make it your goal to grow as an individual, and within your community. Be part of creating the beauty that surrounds us every day.

Without music life would be a mistake. ~Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

COURSE OVERVIEW
Before one can make music, he/she must be technically proficient on the instrument itself. In order to ensure that each student is comfortable on his or her own instrument, new technique studies will be included in each rehearsal. These studies include, but are not limited to: scales (one, and eventually two octave) arpeggios, and double stops. There will also be inclusive music history/theory lessons within each rehearsal, as it pertains to the repertoire. This is an opportunity to create music with others, and the majority of class time will be focused on doing so.

DISCIPLINE POLICY
There are a few common sense rules for the classroom:
✓ Do not talk when others (including myself) are playing or speaking.
✓ No gum!
✓ No food or drink, with the exception of bottled water.
  o If you do bring water – TAKE ALL TRASH WITH YOU. I am not here to clean up after you.
✓ Be prepared for class. This includes any and all materials listed in the
  o “Classroom Procedures” section.
✓ Respect yourself and others.

In addition to the procedures listed in the student handbook, I will be strictly following all of the guidelines outlined above. Disruptions in the classroom affect the learning of all students in the room. Unnecessary disruptions will not be tolerated.
REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6th Grade Orchestra</th>
<th>ODD Days, D Block</th>
<th>Orchestra Room (CC120)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MS Orchestra</td>
<td>ODD Days, Z Block</td>
<td>Orchestra Room (CC120)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS Chamber Ensemble</td>
<td>Days 1/3/7/9, Lunch</td>
<td>Orchestra Room (CC120)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important thoughts on performance absences:

Attendance at ALL Rehearsals and Concerts is mandatory. This includes community service concerts during the day.

When one member of a performing ensemble is absent, the quality of the group is compromised. Performing your repertoire is the exciting climax that all hard work and rehearsals have led up to. Being a part of this ensemble provides an opportunity for growth...don’t miss out on any of the excitement!

I suggest making copies of your performance/rehearsal schedule. It will always be posted in my room, but it should also be easily accessible at your home. Because of the fact that all rehearsals and performances are clearly outlined above, the excuse of “not knowing about a performance or rehearsal” will not be accepted. If any changes are to take place, each student will receive an updated schedule ahead of time.
### 2013-2014 Performance Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ensembles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.9 - 9.12.2013</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>MSCE Auditions</td>
<td>Orchestra Room (CC120)</td>
<td>6th, MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.1.2013</td>
<td>9:30a-11:45a</td>
<td>Conference Day Rehearsal</td>
<td>Orchestra Room (CC120)</td>
<td>MSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.12.2013</td>
<td>7:00-9:00p</td>
<td>Candlelight Recital</td>
<td>Class of 1944 Chapel</td>
<td>Private Student Recital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.26.2013</td>
<td>9:40a-10:15a</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Chapel</td>
<td>Class of 1944 Chapel</td>
<td>MSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1.2013 (TENTATIVE)</td>
<td>12:00p-2:00p</td>
<td>Peace Around the World Celebration</td>
<td>UPenn Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology</td>
<td>MSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.17.2013</td>
<td>7:00p-9:00p (6:15p arrival time)</td>
<td>Middle School Holiday Concert</td>
<td>Main Stage Theatre</td>
<td>6th, MS, MSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.20.2013</td>
<td>11:00a-12:00p</td>
<td>Lessons and Carols Chapel Service</td>
<td>Class of 1944 Chapel</td>
<td>MSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.18.2014</td>
<td>ALL DAY (Specifics TBA)</td>
<td>5/6th Grade String Fest</td>
<td>Great Valley SD</td>
<td>Any student participating in the festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.19.2014</td>
<td>9:40-10:15a</td>
<td>Dora Khayatt Winners Performance for MS</td>
<td>Class of 1944 Chapel</td>
<td>All MS Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.2014</td>
<td>ALL DAY (Specifics TBA)</td>
<td>7/8th Grade String Fest</td>
<td>West Chester SD</td>
<td>Any student participating in the festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.14.2014</td>
<td>9:30a-11:45a</td>
<td>Conference Day Rehearsal</td>
<td>Orchestra Room (CC120)</td>
<td>MSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8.2014</td>
<td>7:00p-9:00p (6:15p arrival time)</td>
<td>Middle School Spring Concert</td>
<td>Main Stage Theatre</td>
<td>6th, MS, MSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9.2014</td>
<td>8:00a-10:00p</td>
<td>Music in the Parks</td>
<td>HersheyPark</td>
<td>MS, MSCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.13.2014</td>
<td>7:00p-9:00p</td>
<td>Candlelight Recital</td>
<td>Class of 1944 Chapel</td>
<td>Private Student Recital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.21.2014</td>
<td>8:00a-8:30a</td>
<td>6th Grade Performance for LS</td>
<td>Main Stage Theatre</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6th = 6th Grade Orchestra  MS = MS Orchestra (7th/8th)  MSCE = Middle School Chamber Ensemble
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS
The Middle School Chamber Ensemble is an auditioned group of students who participate in one of the middle school orchestras (either 6th Grade or MS orchestra). The Middle School Chamber Ensemble gives advanced and dedicated students a chance to study more challenging repertoire. In addition to performing different repertoire in the concerts, there will be outside performance opportunities. Because of the nature of this ensemble, a certain level of commitment will be expected. This includes, but is not limited to regular lunch and possible after school rehearsals.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURE
Students will be given a folder containing their music. The folders are to be stored in the rehearsal room and retrieved at the beginning of each rehearsal.
Pencils will be provided for use in class. Please make sure to put them back in your folder after rehearsals!
Come to rehearsals on time and ready to rehearse. While daily theory activities are completed, tuning will happen. There is adequate time to arrive and prep your instrument beforehand.
At each rehearsal, every student is required to have:
✓ His/her instrument. (This includes shoulder rest, rock stop, etc.)
✓ Theory Book (6th Grade)

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE
ALL members of the Middle School Orchestral Ensembles are required to wear the following for ALL Performances outside of the school day (unless otherwise specified).

**Boys**
- White dress shirt
- Khaki Pants
- EA School Tie
- Dark socks, belt
- Dark dress shoes
- Blazer

**Girls**
- White blouse with flat collar
- Shirt must be tucked into kilt
- Blue EA Sweater
- EA seasonal kilt
- December – Winter kilt
- April – Spring kilt
- May – Spring kilt
- Dark dress shoes and nude stockings
GRADING POLICY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ENSEMBLES

Grade percentages:
25% Class Participation
60% Evaluation/Assignments (75% Fall Trimester)
15% Concert Performance (Winter & Spring Trimesters Only) Class Participation – 25%
Prepared for Rehearsals
○ Have instrument/music/pencil at rehearsals
Positive Contribution to Rehearsals
Evaluation/Assignments – 60%
There will be various individual/small group evaluation opportunities and assignments during the course of each trimester.
Concert Performance – 15% (Winter & Spring Trimesters Only)
Participation in all performances is mandatory. Performances are worth 10 points each with the following distribution:
• On time for call – 3 points
• In uniform/concert dress – 3 points
• Playing/Performance – 4 points
If a student misses a mandatory performance, it is assumed he/she will complete a make-up activity. A percentage of the 10 points may be earned as follows:
• Excused absences, make-up complete – 75%
• Excused absence, no make-up – 50%
• Un-excused absence, make-up complete – 50%
• Un-excused absence, no make-up – 0%

EXTRA CREDIT
Chapel offerings, or campus performances outside the larger group performance
Concert Notes, Written Essay or CD-Book-Article Review
Attend a concert beyond the required concert attendance, including other EA concerts

EFFORT GRADE
Students will be assessed for their effort grades on a daily basis based on rehearsals. Each day begins with full credit (10 points), and is affected ± by the following:

Arrive promptly to rehearsals
Participate fully during rehearsal.
Handle all music and music folders with care
Come prepared for each class with materials
Demonstrate positive energy and concentration during rehearsal

The average of the above categories will result in the following Effort Grades:

E   9 - 10
S+  6 - 8
S   4 - 5
S-  2 – 3
U   0 – 1
FESTIVALS/TRIPS

This year we will be participating in many exciting events. There will be several opportunities for the ensembles to perform both inside and outside of school. Also, this year the I/II form groups (Middle School Orchestra) and select ensembles (Middle School Chamber Ensemble) will be participating in the Music in the Parks festival at Hershey Park. This is an adjudicated festival, which means that our performing groups will each be judged and given a score based on their performance. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to experience new aspects of performance.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME

I WILL:

- always respect you.
- share my knowledge and love of music with you.
- encourage you to be the best version of yourself.
- be fair in grading and discipline.
- make the most of our rehearsal time.
- always ask you to achieve all that you are capable of.
- listen to concerns that you have.
- be open to comments, questions and suggestions.

While I promise these things to every member of my ensembles, I also ask the same of you. Although I am open to your comments and suggestions, my decisions are final. Respect of this fact will allow our rehearsals to run more smoothly.
STUDENT/PARENT STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

* Please sign and return to Mrs. Bechtold by Friday, September 13th, 2013 *

STUDENT NAME_____________________________________

GRADE____________________

PARENT/GUARDIAN(S) Name(s)

_____________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

Phone(s) _____________________________________________

I,__________________________________________, have read the 2013-2014 Middle School Guide and understand the information contained therein. I agree to comply with all rules and regulations and accept the consequences for breaking those rules.

__________________________________________  ______________________
Student signature                                   Date

I,__________________________________________, the parent/guardian of the above student, have read the 2013-2014 Middle School Guide and discussed it with my child. I understand the information contained in the guide and will encourage my child to be a dedicated and contributing member of this ensemble.

__________________________________________  ______________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian                           Date