**Music Department Handbook**

[**http://nmsmusic.org**](http://nmsmusic.org)

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Welcome back to school!!!! The following contains important information about the music performance program at Normandin Middle School. Students and parents are asked to read it over carefully, sign and return the signature page before Sept. 8, 2017.

**Performance Schedule**

Please see the attached listings of all performances. Please note: Performances are designated for certain groups.

**Grading Policy**

Students in Band, Chorus, & Strings Class will be responsible for the following:

* **Rehearsal Participation** 
  + Bring all materials to class: equipment, music and pencil
  + Positive participation: ready to listen, play and sing your best, follow all classroom rules and procedures
* **Practice Assignments/In-Class Quizzes** 
  + Successfully complete at-home practice assignments
  + Successfully complete in class performance quizzes

(Students who want to complete performance assignments privately must do so before the scheduled quiz date)

* **Concert Attendance** 
  + Band & Chorus are performance ensembles and we rely on all members to have the best possible performance. Excused absences from a concert (approved by your teacher or out-of-school illness) can be made up by completing an alternative assignment. ABSENCES NOT APPROVED BEFOREHAND WILL RESULT IN A LOWER GRADE!

**Performances**

As this is a performance-based class, attendance to all performances is mandatory. The dates and places are listed above. Please put these dates on your calendar now so that you can schedule around them. Why is attendance mandatory at performances?

* Performing for an audience is the primary focus of this class. Concerts provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.
* Performances are the means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.
* Performing is a group effort. The performance is weakened by every missing person. We rehearse together and we perform together.

**Concert Dress**

In effort to teach professionalism, appearance is an important component to the performance ensemble. Please use the following dress guidelines. The dress for girl performers will be: a solid white blouse or solid white dressy shirt, black/dark pants, or a black/dark knee length skirt. Leggings are okay if they are worn with a skirt. Shoes: black or dark dressy shoes are preferred; sandals and jazz shoes are okay.

The dress for boys will be a white shirt (with a collar). Black pants are preferable; however, if you have black jeans that are neat and not faded that would be fine. For shoes, black or dark dress shoes are preferred, but if you have solid black sneakers like Vans that are neat and clean, that would be fine. All pants and shirts should be ironed. Also, flip-flops and white socks are not acceptable.

**Instrument Info**

Students are responsible for taking care of school owned equipment as best as possible. For woodwinds: Reeds are available for sale from Mr. Chambers ($2 for clarinets, $3 for alto sax & $4 for tenor sax / bass clarinet)Reeds are more expensive in the store so stock up at school. Brass players should purchase a bottle of valve oil for the year. All drummers are responsible for purchasing their own sticks and labeling both with their name. Issues with string instruments are to be brought to Mr. Daniels attention immediately.

**Parent Communication**

* Please visit our website at <http://nmsmusic.org> for performance and general information about our program.
* Subscribe to Remind101 to get text or email updates of your child’s band responsibilities. Your information is kept private from us. We only see your name. Send a message/email asking for your child’s class code.
* Be a volunteer! We would like to have more help at concerts, field trips, etc. Complete the district’s CORI and DSS forms and you are in! See Mr. Chambers for more details.
* If you need me, email or website message is preferred for a timely reply. Leave a number and I will call if you prefer.

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I have read the Music Department handbook and understand the expectations. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact Mr. Chambers, Ms. Phillips, or Mr. Daniels at my earliest convenience.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_