

North Bethesda Middle School



Instrumental Music Handbook 2019 – 2020

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WELCOME to North Bethesda Middle School Band and Orchestra. Please read the following handbook carefully, and refer to it throughout the year. My expectations are high for everyone involved, but know that you will have fun, and support is **ALWAYS** available to help you at any time throughout the year! I look forward to getting to know all of our wonderful instrumental music students and supportive parents. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We are looking forward to another exciting year of music at North Bethesda Middle School.

Ms. Monica L. Hepburn & Mr. Colin Brown
Director of Instrumental Music

Student Conduct: With high expectations come many policies and procedures. North Bethesda Bands and Orchestras have a reputation for students that demonstrate a high level of respect and discipline at all times.

North Bethesda Band and Orchestra Behavioral Expectations

1. Everyone will treat others with the highest degree of respect.
2. When someone is talking to the group, you are listening.
3. The use of personal communication devices (CELL PHONES) will not be permitted during class time.
4. Saying "Thank You" is expected when you encounter people that deserve it for what they have done for you or the group.
5. Students will only keep instruments, music, and musical materials in their instrument locker.
6. No food, no gum, or drink is allowed in the music room.
7. If it is not yours, do not touch or use it.
8. Since every performance is based on a group effort, every member of the "TEAM" is vitally important to each rehearsal or performance. It is the expectation that when you select band/orchestra you are committing to a FULL YEAR of music instruction.

North Bethesda Band and Orchestra Rehearsal Expectations

1. Always do the best that you can do!
2. Students will not be late to class.
3. At the sound of the bell all musicians should be in the music room getting out instruments, music, and getting ready for rehearsal. This is not social time.
4. Warm-up carefully, only after being seated and prepared for class. Once seated the musician should check the board for announcements, objectives, and place music in order posted on the agenda.
5. At the end of every rehearsal, all music folders and instruments must be put in their proper storage space. All percussion equipment must be returned to the percussion cabinet. Please do not leave instruments or schoolbooks around the rehearsal room.

North Bethesda Instrumental Music Grading Policy

Students learn and grow by playing their instrument and actively participating in daily rehearsals with the proper materials and working towards playing their best. This type of learning cannot be “made-up” each student is crucial to the success of everyone else.

In compliance with MCPS grading policy, students will be graded in the following manner:

100% ALL TASKS AND ASSESSMENTS

Summative Assessments: Each grade will reflect how well a student is able to demonstrate know of multiple skills inherent to the proper performance. This will be assessed using individual performances and written tests. Summative assessments will be given approximately every two weeks on concert performance repertoire. Summative assessments may not be retaken.

Concert Performance: This grade is a reflection of how well the student performs the assigned music in a concert situation, as well as demonstrates mastery of content knowledge, concert procedures and performance skills which are essential to achievement and good musicianship. Since this activity is a group culmination of all the previous assignments, concert participation is mandatory and this assessment has the highest value toward a final grade. (25% of the

second quarter and fourth quarter grade.) Pre-excused students will need to complete an independent project assigned by the teacher.

Formative Assessments: Student skill levels will be measured through individual assessments. Formative assessments will occur approximately once a week on method book material. (Friday = Test DAY 😊) These tests will be allowed to be retaken. All tests given the first half of the quarter must be made up before that quarter's interim date. (October 5th, December 12th, March 1st, May 9th) Tests given in the second half of the quarter must be made up before the grading period ends.

Written Assessments: This grade includes, music vocabulary, rhythmic studies, music theory worksheets and any other writing assignment which may be administered during the marking period.

Practicing: The key to progress on a musical instrument include teacher instruction and CORRECT repetitions of that instruction by the student. The most common hindrances from steady progress are LACK of student practice and student practice with improper technique. Meaningful home practice is ESSENTIAL to the student's continued progress.

"PRACTICE WITHOUT IMPROVEMENT IS MEANINGLESS."

Instrument and Music Care

1. Be sure your name is included in your music folder.
2. **Use only a PENCIL to write on the music. Do not use any type of pen!**
3. The folder and music must be kept in good condition. The student's sheet music and text book must be stored in their music folder. Replace or repair damaged folders to avoid damaging the music.
4. Make sure your name and school is attached to or placed on your instrument case. This is critical in the event your instrument is lost, or in many cases left on the bus.
5. Keep your instrument in working condition. Periodically inspect your instrument and report any damage or maintenance needs.
6. Equipment is to be stored in its designated space. Do not leave instruments in the hallway. Small instruments may be stored in hall lockers.
7. Instruments need to be kept clean, both inside and out for sanitary reasons and for better playing response.

8. Percussionists are held responsible for keeping the percussion section in a neat and orderly manner.
9. Students and parents will be financially responsible for repairs on school owned instruments which are the result of misuse or neglect.

Private Lessons: I strongly encourage all parents to consider private lessons for their son/daughter. There is no better way to ensure progress on a musical instrument than private lessons coupled with home practice. Private lessons are a “one on one” teaching session with a professional musician who is very advanced on his/her instrument.

I cannot stress enough the importance of private lessons. Many new students have expressed concerns about the difficulty of music ~ take private lessons and get a great head start on some solid practice techniques and methods for your instrument.

Concert Procedures

1. Concert Attendance Policy: Concerts are the culmination of many hours of hard work and serve to complete the learning process. Students are graded in relation to their accomplishment of course objectives. Students are required to participate in a limited number of special evening and weekend performances. **Winter Concert – Thursday, December 5, 2019 Spring Concert – Thursday, June 4, 2020.**
2. Because performances are part of the course objectives, **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** Family vacations, sports events, lack of transportation etc. are not considered legitimate reasons for missing performances. Musical ensembles are a team effort. It is essential for every member of our team to be present. If, in a very rare circumstance you need to miss a performance for a wedding or other equally important family event, you **MUST turn in a written excuse/email from a parent or guardian ONE MONTH prior to the performance. In addition, an alternate assignment will be assigned.**
3. Appropriate concert dress is mandatory. Only students who are dressed appropriately will be permitted to participate.

4. Arrive 60 minutes before the concert start time.
5. A concert is a performance for family, friends, and the community; therefore, students are representing the school and should act and perform in a professional manner. **“CLASSROOM REHEARSAL PROCEDURES ARE TO BE FOLLOWED!!!!”**

NBMS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONCERT ATTIRE

Black dress shirt or blouse
Black pants or knee length skirt
Black stockings
Black dress shoes
All black dress

Black Pants (NO JEANS)
White long sleeved shirt
Tie
Black Socks
Black Shoes (NO SNEAKERS!)

EXTRA HELP FROM MS. HEPBURN

Whether you take private lessons or not, ASK MS. HEPBURN FOR HELP!!!! She is available before and after school, and you can make appointments. Take advantage of the help and find out exactly what is going on to get you where you want to be.

NBMS PERFORMANCE CALENDAR 2018 – 2019

Performance	Date / Time	Location
MCPS Honors Jazz Auditions	October 14 th 4:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Frost Middle School
MCPS Honors Band and Orchestra Auditions	November 12 th 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.	TBA
Junior All-State Auditions	November 16 th TBA	TBA
NBMS Winter Concert	December 5 th 7:00 – 9:00	Walter Johnson High School
Advanced Orchestra Incoming 6 th Grade Parent Night	Thursday, January 30 th 6:30 – 7:30	North Bethesda Middle School
MCPS District II Ensemble Festival	Friday, February 28 th TBA	Frost Middle School
MCPS District II Solo Festival	Saturday, February 29 th TBA	Frost Middle School
Music in the Parks “Busch Gardens” Advanced Orchestra/Advanced Band	Friday, May 8 th 6 a.m. – 11 p.m. ALL DAY 😊	Williamsburg, VA
NBMS Spring Concert	Thursday, June 4 th 7:00 – 9:00	Walter Johnson High School

Please keep in mind that the above calendar is tentative. You will be notified of any changes as soon as they become known.

Hard Work ~ High Expectations ~ Memorable Results

North Bethesda Parent – Student Agreement

Please detach and return to Ms. Hepburn by September 13, 2019

I have read the handbook and understand all rules and policies of the North Bethesda Music Department. I understand that I must abide by the following polices in order to make music a successful musically enriching experience for all of those involved. I realize that if I do not meet these expectations it could be harmful to my own musical experience as well as others and may result in the lowing of my grade.

STUDENT NAME _____

CLASS _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

“Think Big, Believe Big, Perform Big, and the results will be Big.”