**Mattlin Middle School**

**Music Department**

**Music Performance Handbook**

September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The music staff at Mattlin Middle School would like to welcome your child to band, chorus, and orchestra.  Plainview Old- Bethpage Central School District has a tradition of excellence in music performance and your child can be proud to be a part of this tradition.

This handbook will provide some information that will help your child be successful in his/her musical studies.  Please go over this information with your child so that together, we can make this experience successful and fun.

It is our pleasure to work with your talented children.  See you at concert time!

Sincerely,

Christopher Catalano- 5th and 6th grade chorus

David Hirsch- 7th and 8th grade symphonic band

Aaron Langenauer- 5th grade band and 6th grade band

Robert Lombardo- 7th and 8th grade chorus

Ellen Lucas- 5th grade orchestra and 6th, 7th, and 8th grade orchestra

**Mattlin Middle School Music Rehearsal Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **Period 0**  **7:49-8:30** | Chorus 5/6 | Orchestra 6/7/8  Band 6  Chorus 7/8  Band 7/8 | Chorus 5/6 | Orchestra 6/7/8  Band 6  Chorus 7/8  Band 7/8 | Orchestra 6/7/8  Chorus 7/8  Band 7/8  Chorus 5/6 |
| **Period 9**  **2:54-3:35** | Orchestra 5  Band 5 |  | Orchestra 5  Band 5 |  |  |

**Students in band or orchestra who wish to participate in chorus**

**We welcome students to share their talent**!  Vocalists may participate in both an instrumental ensemble and chorus.  Students should notify the chorus teacher of their desire to participate in both ensembles.

7th and 8th grade instrumentalists may participate in chorus on Tuesday or Friday during zero period as scheduled by Mr. Lombardo.

**Band and Orchestra Group Lessons**

Instrumental students will have a lesson once a week where they will learn the technique that is unique to their instrument.  This lesson will be on the same day each week but the period will rotate.

For accurate attendance purposes, music students should always speak to their subject area teacher before they attend a lesson.  We encourage students to have a “buddy “in the class who can take notes, copy homework assignments, and pick up any handouts given in class. Ultimately, good student to teacher communication will help your child successfully manage the work.

Students who need to reschedule their lesson should notify their instrumental music teacher in advance.  Lessons missed due to tests or school trips etc. should be made up as soon as possible.

**School Policy for Withdrawal from Band, Chorus, or Orchestra**

Students may withdraw from band, chorus, or orchestra during the first four weeks of the program (the deadline is October 11, 2019), or at the end of the second quarter. Studies show that there is myriad of benefits to body and mind for those who study music. There are no other disciplines that simultaneously require watching, reading, listening, counting, evaluating, responding, fine muscle coordination, and expression.   We encourage you to have a discussion with the music teacher and guidance counselor before making the decision to drop the class.

Often students who struggle at the beginning of the school year achieve results at concert time that are extremely rewarding.  Therefore, we believe that a one semester commitment is necessary for a student to realize their full potential.

**Music Department Absence Policy 2019-20**

  Dear Parents/Guardians of Music Students,

Welcome to music at Howard B. Mattlin Middle School.  We are looking forward to a terrific year and would like to share with you an attendance policy that will be in place as of September 2017 in order to support and accommodate students who would like to participate in school-wide charitable events, clubs, etc.

It is important that students attend their scheduled zero or ninth period rehearsals on a regular basis.  However, if a student cannot attend rehearsal, they may be excused provided a note from a parent/guardian is given to the teacher in advance of the rehearsal. Two such absences will be excused per quarter.  We hope that this will help your child develop as a musician while also staying engaged with the larger school community.

These two excused absences from ensemble rehearsals are intended for situations in which a student attends a full day of school but would like to participate in another school activity that takes place during their regularly scheduled music class. In addition, it should also be noted that students **are not penalized for school absences, attendance at remedial, AIS, or participating in another school music ensemble.**

Middle school is an exciting time with lots of great opportunities for students and one in which they take greater control over their education.  We want them to feel empowered to explore their interests. The choice is theirs as to when and how to use these excused absences.

We thank you for your continued support of music and the arts.

Sincerely,

The H.B. Mattlin Music Staff

**Practice Requirements**

Sound practice habits help musicians develop organizational skills and master techniques necessary to be a contributing member of an ensemble. Weekly homework assignments are given to help students progress outside the music room and like any other classroom, are essential to a child’s success. How much practice is enough? As in sports or math, anything worthwhile takes effort.  Specific practice guidelines will be provided by your child’s ensemble director.

**Private Lessons**

Private lessons provide one on one instruction that is not possible in the school music setting and as such, they are encouraged as a supplement to the school program.  Private study is especially important if your child intends to participate in the NYSSMA solo festival.

The district music office has compiled a list of private teachers for your convenience.  This list is available on the district music website.

**Concert Attire**

Mattlin Middle School concert attire is uniform across the ensembles.  Please be sure to check for proper fit *before* the concert season.

Boys: White dress shirt and long tie (no sports shirts), dark dress pants and dark dress shoes.

Girls: White blouse, a dark skirt covering the knees when sitting or dark dress pants, and dark dress shoes.

Please note that T-shirts, jeans, sneakers, work boots and short skirts are inappropriate dress for a concert and may not be worn.   Any student not adhering to the concert dress code will not be permitted to perform before an audience.

**CONCERT  DATES SCHEDULE**

**Students are required to attend all of their ensemble performances.**

All Concerts begin at 7:00 PM**.** Please reserve the following concert dates in your calendar:

**WINTER CONCERTS**

Thursday, December 5, 2019                   5th Grade Orchestra

                                                                     6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Orchestra

                                                                    7th & 8th Grade Chorus

Thursday, December 12, 2019                      6th Grade Band

                                                                     7th & 8th Grade Band

Tuesday, December 17, 2019               5th Grade Band

                                                                            5th & 6th Grade Chorus

**SPRING CONCERTS**

Thursday, April 30, 2020                            5th Grade Orchestra

                                                                     6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Orchestra

                                                                    7th & 8th Grade Chorus

Tuesday, May 5, 2020                                 5th Grade Band

                                                                           5th & 6th Grade Chorus

Thursday, May 7, 2020 6th Grade Band

                                                                     7th & 8th Grade Band

Jazz Ensemble