



6th GRADE ORCHESTRA



WHAT THIS CLASS IS ALL ABOUT

- Improving your overall musicianship
- Increasing your skills playing your instrument
- Belonging to a performing group
- Learning some of the nuts and bolts of music
- Learning a little about how some of our music fits into history

WHAT WE WILL DO: Attendance is mandatory as part of the orchestra grade.

- Winter Concert – 12/17/2008 7:00 PM at **Frederick Community College Theater**
- Feeder Pattern Concert - 1/9/2009 7:00 PM at Gov. T.J High School
- Spring Concert - 5/13/2009 7:00 PM at **Frederick Community College Theater**
- Combined Rehearsals from 3:00 - 4:30 on 12/8/08 and 4/21/09 in the band room.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- All County Orchestra Audition 11/20/2008 (at Monocacy Middle School)
- County Solo and Ensemble Festival- 3/23,24 or 25/2009 (at Monocacy Middle School)
- See the band website for additional opportunities:
<http://home.comcast.net/~cherry42/events.html>

WHAT YOU NEED EVERY DAY

- Pencil (not a pen)
- Your instrument
- Your music
- Book: Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 - Please have by 9/8/2008
- Agenda book



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AT HOME

- Practice as much as you can.
- Practicing should be spent working on band music, book stuff, and stuff just for fun. You can find books of the music *you* like best at the music stores.
- Throughout the year you will be tested on specific music that you will need to practice at home.

CONCERT DRESS

Boys: White, long sleeved button down shirt, black pants, black or brown belt, black socks, dressy all black or all brown shoes. Please avoid sneakers.

Girls: White blouse (long sleeves preferred), The blouse needs to be the style you tuck in. Black pants, dressy shoes, hose or dark socks.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE IN THE BAND ROOM

- The band room has facilities for day storage of instruments. All privately owned instruments are to be taken home each night and brought back the next rehearsal day. All students are responsible to have a nametag on their instrument case. A luggage tag works well for this.



HOW YOUR GRADE IS DETERMINED



# Tests/ projects	50%
# Improvement during class	25%
# Quiz/daily assignments	25%
# Concert Performance	10 point reduction to the marking period grade if the student misses the concert.

EXPLANATION OF GRADE CATEGORIES

- 1. Tests/projects:** written, playing, or performance assessments.
- 2. Improvement during class:** This grade is based on how engaged you are in class, your effort to become a stronger musician, and your general band skills. This grade also rewards you for having a pencil (not a pen), your instrument, music, and other specified items on a daily basis.
- 3. Quiz/daily assignments:** written, playing, or performance assessments generally less in depth than a test.
- 4. Concert Performance:** Attendance and performance at the Winter Concert, and Spring Concert are required of members of the orchestra. Students who do not perform on the concert will have a 10-point grade reduction of their grade in the marking period that the concert occurs. Students are required to be able to play their music satisfactorily for the director prior to the concert.



ATTENDANCE

- You are expected to participate in all out of school and during school band activities. Failure to attend any of these activities may result in a lowering of your grade.

PRACTICING EXPECTATION

Its simple. The more you practice, the better you will be at playing your instrument. I want you to pick something to work on each day from your orchestra music, lesson book, other books you have, songs on the radio you want to figure out, or songs you make up yourself. There is no time minimum or limit to your daily practicing. I suggest that you do plan a regular time each day to start your practicing. I also suggest you select at least 5 days per week to practice. To really enjoy playing a musical instrument you must be successful on it. **To be successful at anything you have to work at it.** I want you to have fun playing your instrument and in orchestra class. Fun is directly proportional to the work you put in.

CONTACTING MR. BERRY

Please feel free to contact Mr. Berry regarding your child's progress at charles.berry@fcps.org or at (240)-236-4700 ex: 4739. You will also find a lot of information on the band/orchestra website - <http://home.comcast.net/~cberry42>

Keep the top Portion. Detach and return the bottom.

Printed Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____ 06

Parent Signature: _____ Parent email: _____

Parent phone # _____ - _____ - _____ Student email _____

Instrument (trumpet, flute...): _____ Make (Glaesel, Meisel...): _____

Serial#: _____ (Usually found written on a piece of paper glued inside the instrument. You should be able to see it by looking through the F hole.)

RETURN BY 8/29
(this is a grade for your child)

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