SYKESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
Band and Orchestra Handbook
2019-2020

Mr. Michael S. Passen
Instrumental Music Director
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A Word to Parents and Students

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning Band and Orchestra students to the Instrumental Music program at Sykesville Middle School. I am very excited about the academic year before us and I believe that your student will find his or her experience in Instrumental Music both fun and challenging. Over the course of your student’s middle school career, he or she will refine the instrumental foundation established in elementary school and work toward a more mature musicianship in preparation for participation in high school ensembles.

Participation in Band and Orchestra offers your student not only the benefit of instruction and application of a fine art in the classroom setting, but also several performance opportunities. Beyond school concert programs, students enrolled in middle school instrumental programs are offered the opportunity to participate in All-County and All-State ensembles, as well as Solo and Ensemble festival. These performance opportunities are discussed in detail below.

As we begin the year, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or by e-mail with any questions that may arise. I look forward to working with your student and wish you and your family an enjoyable and fruitful year at Sykesville Middle School.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Passen

Michael S. Passen
Band and Orchestra Director
School Leader – Team 10
Sykesville Middle School
**Philosophy**
The instrumental music program at Sykesville Middle School is designed to advance the foundation established in elementary school in order to cultivate a more well-rounded and expressive musicianship. Topics covered in ensemble and technique lessons will include:

- **Performing** a variety of repertoire
- **Reading and notating** music (writing music)
- **Listening to, analyzing, and describing** music
- **Evaluating** music and musical performances
- **Understanding** music and its relationship to **history and culture**

In addition to a more refined musicianship, the instrumental music student will also develop values such as cooperation, studiousness, and pride in accomplishment. These values will extend beyond participation in a musical ensemble to impact both the student’s academic and professional life.

**Grading**
Students will receive a letter grade on their report card for each marking period. Grades are determined as follows:

- **60%** Playing assessments and concert performances
- **40%** Ensemble rehearsals

Playing assessments will be taken from two sources. Each quarter, it will be the student’s responsibility of students in 6th and 7th grade to complete **at least three items** from their method book checklist. In addition, short excerpts from concert material will also be identified as playing test material.

**Additional Performance Opportunities**

**Solo and Ensemble Festival:** Members of band and orchestra are encouraged, but not Required, to participate in the Carroll County Solo and Ensemble Festival. Solo and small ensemble playing helps students develop confidence and musical maturity. Students who participate in this event will receive written performance comments and helpful advice from expert musicians. Students who earn a grade of “superior” will also be eligible to perform in State Solo and Ensemble.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Friday, February 7th, 2020

**PERFORMANCE DATE:** Saturday, March 28th, 2020 – Carroll Community College
(Additional Performance Opportunities continued)

**All-County Band and Orchestra:** Students interested in playing in All-County Band and Orchestra must complete a county-wide audition. In order to audition, students must have an “A” in band or orchestra and be recommended by their school director. Both All-County Band and Orchestra give students the opportunity to perform challenging music and work with an array of guest conductors and professional musicians.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Friday, October 11th, 2019  
**BAND AUDITION:** Thursday, November 14th, 2019 – West Middle School  
**ORCHESTRA AUDITION:** Thursday, November 7th, 2019 – West Middle School

**All-State Band and Orchestra:** The Maryland Band Directors Association (MBDA) and Maryland Orchestra Directors Association (MODA) sponsor the All-State Band and All-State Orchestra. Membership in both of these ensembles is extremely competitive and is determined by a state-wide audition. In order to audition, students must be in 7th or 8th grade, have an “A” in band or orchestra, and be recommended by their school director.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Thursday, September 20th, 2019  
**BAND AND ORCHESTRA AUDITION:** Saturday, November 16th, Location TBD

**Attendance Policy**  
Band and Orchestra students are expected to attend all scheduled performances and rehearsals. Concert performances are the culmination of many hours of hard work in and out of rehearsal. Each student is a vital part of their ensemble and the performance is irreconcilably diminished in his or her absence. As each program (winter and spring) is presented only once, it is very important that each student be involved in its performance.

**Concert and performance attendance is a component of each student’s grade.**

Absences may be honored if the following procedure is taken:

1. A note is received from the student’s parent or guardian at least one week before a performance, except in the case of an emergency. If there is an emergency, please contact the director at your earliest convenience.
2. The director will review the note and indicate whether or not the absence will be excused. If the absence is excused, the student will receive an alternative assignment to replace the concert grade. A parent note does not guarantee an excused absence.

Please note that the following activities will not be considered for an excused absence:
- Athletic events (tryouts, practices, or games)
- Rehearsals or performances for extra-curricular activities or ensembles
- Vacations or other recreational activities

Concert dates for the school year are listed on the following page. Please make note of these early in order to avoid conflicts.
Concert Dates

Winter Concerts
Orchestra
Tuesday, December 17th, 2019 – Century High School
Call Time: 6:15
Performance: 7:00

Band
Wednesday, December 18th, 2019 – Century High School
Call Time: 6:30
Performance: 7:00

Century High School Feeder Concert
Wednesday, January 22nd – Century High School
*This event includes only 8th grade performers and some select 7th grade performers*

Spring Concerts
Orchestra
Tuesday, May 26th, 2020 – Century High School
Call Times: 6:15 (strings)
Performance: 7:00

Band
Wednesday, May 27th, 2020 – Century High School
Call Time: 6:30
Performance: 7:00

Jazz Band
TBD

Music Supplies Purchase
In order to cover the costs of method books and concert attire, a music fee will be assessed for all 6th grade students and select 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in instrumental music. Order forms for these materials can be found on p. 9 of this document.

Rehearsal Expectations
Students are expected to attend rehearsals and technique lessons with all necessary materials, with previous playing assignments prepared, and with a disposition conducive to productive rehearsal. Specifically, students will:

• Come to class on time (unless they have a late pass)
• Come to class prepared with their instrument, music binder, agenda book, and a pencil.
• Be respectful of instruments and each other
• Participate in all class activities
• Attend and participate in uniform in all concerts and assessments
• Show evidence of home practice
• Come to class prepared to learn
In order to encourage students to meet these expectations, appropriate behavior will be rewarded with praise and positive phone calls. If these expectations are not met, however, the following procedures will be implemented to resolve the issue:
1. Verbal warning
2. Private conference with student to develop a plan to solve the problem
3. Phone call home
4. Referral to a counselor and/or administrator

Performance Attire
Performance Attire:
Concert performances are formal occasions. Students should wear appropriate concert attire while remaining consistent with the Carroll County Public School System Dress Code. Uniformity amongst student performers facilitates the focus of our audience on the music being performed and not the attire of the musicians on stage. Students should conform to one of the following uniform options:

Option 1:
- Black, button-down, collared shirt
- Black dress pants
- Teal Southeastern Apparel straight tie (ordered in bulk to assure uniformity)

Option 2:
- Black Blouse and slacks or calf-length skirt
  Or
- Black, calf-length dress

Regardless of option, all students should wear black dress shoes with black socks/stockings.

Bands and orchestras are judged on their appearance as well as their musical skill at county music assessments. Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed in their uniform, otherwise, they may not be able to perform. In order to ensure uniformity, all new students opting for Option 1 will need to purchase a tie through our bulk order. Please submit your payment by Friday, September 27th, 2019, using the order form on the final page of this document.
**Required Materials**

To ensure your student’s success in instrumental music, the following items are necessary:

- Instrument in playing condition
- Black three-ring binder (purchased through Sykesville Middle School with method book order)
- Sound Innovations Book 2 method book (purchased through Sykesville Middle School)
- Tuner (ex. Snark, Korg)
- Metronome (ex. Qwik Time) or metronome app (ex. Pro Metronome, Metronome Beats)
- Instrument-specific accessories:
  - Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon – At least two reeds in playing condition in case
  - Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe – Cork grease
  - Trumpet, Baritone, Horn, Trombone – Valve/slide oil
  - Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass – Rosin
  - Violin, Viola – Shoulder rest
Suggested Materials

Students who have completed elementary instrumental programs and have committed to a middle school ensemble have earned the opportunity to play on a more responsive instrument that is capable of achieving a more professional, characteristic tone. Even an upgrade in the quality of a student’s reed or strings can make a tremendous difference in the beauty and responsiveness of the instrument. The following chart gives examples of both accessory and instrument upgrades that would greatly benefit the middle school student.

Please note: this chart DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ENDORSEMENT of any specific brand and is simply meant to provide examples of the quality level of materials that are suggested at the middle school level. Parents and students should use examples such as those below to begin researching and choose the materials that are best suited for the student’s ability, stature, and budget. Visit the retailer of your choice to speak to them about the instruments and accessories that they carry that meet your student’s needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTRUMENT</th>
<th>ACCESSORIES</th>
<th>INSTRUMENT UPGRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FLUTE</td>
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<td>Yamaha &amp; Gemeinhardt open hole flutes</td>
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<td>OBOE</td>
<td>Reed adjusted by local instructor for student.</td>
<td>Fox 400</td>
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<td>CLARINET</td>
<td>Vandoren 5RV Mouthpiece</td>
<td>Leblanc &amp; Buffet wood clarinets.</td>
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<td>Hite Premiere Mouthpiece</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vandoren Optimum Ligature</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vandoren or Mitchell Laurie Reeds</td>
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<td>ALTO SAXOPHONE</td>
<td>Selmer C* Mouthpiece</td>
<td>Yamaha &amp; Selmer</td>
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<td>Hite Premiere Mouthpiece</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vandoren or Mitchell Laurie Reeds</td>
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<td>TENOR SAXOPHONE</td>
<td>Selmer C* Mouthpiece</td>
<td>Yamaha YTS-52</td>
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<td>Vandoren or Mitchell Laurie Reeds</td>
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<td>BASSOON</td>
<td>Fox Bocal</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRUMPET</td>
<td>Bach 3C or 5C Mouthpiece</td>
<td>Bach Stradivarius</td>
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<tr>
<td>HORN</td>
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<td>Holton 379 Double Horn</td>
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<td>TROMBONE</td>
<td>Bach 6.5 AL Mouthpiece</td>
<td>Bach 42BO</td>
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<td>Bach 5G Mouthpiece</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUPHONIUM/BARITONE</td>
<td>Bach 6.5 AL Mouthpiece</td>
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<td>TUBA</td>
<td>Conn Hellenberg Mouthpiece</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIOLIN/VIOLA/CELLO/BASS</td>
<td>D’Addario Prelude or Helicore Strings</td>
<td>Franz Hoffman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thomastik Infeld Vision or Dominant Strings</td>
<td>Otto Ernst Fisher</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pirastro Evah Pirazzi Strings</td>
<td>Carlo Lamberti</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PLEASE RETURN EACH ITEM BELOW IN AN ENVELOPE WITH THE STUDENT NAME AND HOMEROOM TEACHER CLEARLY MARKED.

Music Supplies Order Form
All band and orchestra students will receive a black notebook that contains warm-ups, technique exercises, and band/orchestra music. Please send in the $15 music fee to cover your child’s black binder, dividers, and method book for the school year.

***Please make checks payable to Sykesville Middle School.***

Due: Friday, September 27\(^{th}\), 2019.

Student’s Name ________________________________
Grade ___________________
Enclosed $15.00 for Music Supplies (Check One)
___$15.00 (Check #_______) ___$15.00 (Cash)

Straight Tie Order Form
Band and orchestra students opting for Uniform Option 1 (black, button-down shirt, black dress pants) MUST ORDER A TIE AS PART OF OUR BULK ORDER to ensure ensemble uniformity. Students opting for Option 2 (black, calf-length dress) will not wear a tie and do not need to submit payment for this item.

***Please make checks payable to Sykesville Middle School.***

Due: Friday, September 27\(^{th}\), 2019.

Enclosed $12.00 for Straight Tie (Check One)
___$12.00 (Check #_______) ___$12.00 (Cash)