



**Scarsdale Middle School Sixth Grade Band  
Band Handbook  
Mr. Lieto**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day** \_\_\_\_\_ **Period** \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcome to Scarsdale Middle School and the Sixth Grade Band!**

This is a very exciting time for you as you begin your middle school experience! I look forward to working with you all!

Please read this information carefully in class and at home with your parents. Please keep this outline in your folder and return the **signature page** to me by Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Extra credit will be given if the form is signed and handed in prior to the 11<sup>th</sup>!

**Supplies & Materials**

**STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE ALL SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015.**

**Please be prepared with the following:**

1. Instrument and appropriate supplies
  - a. See below for supplies by instrument
  - b. \*PERCUSSIONISTS, please check for DRUM STICK and BELL SET INFORMATION
2. Luggage Tag on instrument case. Stickers are more likely to fall off or become illegible, and many instrument cases and brands are the same. Please affix a luggage tag to the handle of your instrument case.
3. Band folder (Students will receive a folder in class that will be brought to and from school.)
4. Method Book/sheet music (Students will receive these items in school they should be kept in their folder.)
5. Pencils!!!! STUDENTS WILL NEED TO HAVE A PENCIL FOR CLASS EVERY DAY. Please keep a couple pencils in your instrument case and/or your band folder.
6. Music Stand (for home practicing) – can be purchased for around \$10-\$15 online or at a local music store. Folding metal stands are great for this purpose! (*Strongly recommended*)
7. Metronome - Apple and Droid APPs are great! or try an online metronome for free, such as <http://www.metronomeonline.com/> (*Strongly recommended*)
8. Tuner - Apple and Droid APPs are great! If you play a transposing instrument, be sure your tuner will transpose. Feel free to ask me. for help. (*Strongly recommended*)

## Supplies by Instrument

### Drums (Percussion)

1. **Drum sticks** - *Proper sticks are required for class and home practicing. A recommendation: keeping one pair in your school locker is a GREAT idea. Then have a second pair at home to practice. \*\*\**  
*Note: Rock Band/ Guitar Hero, etc. drum sticks are not appropriately weighted for snare drum skill (multiple bounce, roll, stick control) development and should not be used for practicing or in class. Below is a list of recommended sticks.*
  - a. VIC FIRTH SD1 General drum sticks
  - b. VIC FIRTH SD2 Bolero model drum sticks (slightly smaller and lighter)
  - c. Innovative Percussion Lalo Divila Concert drum sticks
  - d. A "step further" option – Vic Firth Educator Pack EP2 – contains Vic Firth SD1 sticks, yarn and plastic keyboard mallets, timpani mallets, stick bag, etc.
2. A practice pad (or snare drum) **(required for home practicing)**
3. A 2 ½ octave (or larger) bell set with mallets **(required for home practicing)**
4. **NOTE – PERCUSSION STUDENTS WILL ONLY HAVE TO BRING THEIR DRUM STICKS AND MUSIC TO SCHOOL FOR LESSONS AND BAND REHEARSALS. WE HAVE Mallet/BELL SETS AT THE SCHOOL FOR PERCUSSION STUDENTS TO USE.**

### Flute

1. Cleaning rod and cleaning cloth for the inside of the instrument (a handkerchief will do, and the cleaning rod should come with the instrument when you rent or purchase it.) **(strongly recommended)**
2. Cleaning (polishing) cloth for the outside of the instrument **(optional)**

### Clarinet, Oboe, Bassoon, and Saxophone

1. A supply of reeds – at least 3 playable reeds at all times (I recommend purchasing a box, which is more cost effective and will last your child longer); size 2 is appropriate for beginners. 2.5 or higher will be recommended to more accomplished players (clarinet and sax). Highly recommended brands are Vandoren and Mitchell Lurie. **(Reeds are required, though the brand may vary.) \*Oboists and Bassoonists might make his/her own reeds or have a private teacher who makes reeds.**
2. A cleaning swab/cloth for the inside of the instrument – sold by size for each instrument, specifically **(required)**

### Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone Horn, Tuba

1. Valve oil **(required)** (ROTOR OIL – French Horn)
2. Slide grease (for the tuning slide) **(required)**
3. Mouthpiece cleaning brush **(strongly recommended for home cleaning under warm water with mild dish soap as needed)**
4. Cleaning (polishing) cloth for the outside of the instrument **(optional)**

### Trombone

1. Slide oil/slide grease **(required)**
2. Mouthpiece cleaning brush **(strongly recommended for home cleaning under warm water with mild dish soap as needed)**

3. Cleaning (polishing) cloth for the outside of the instrument (**optional**)

### **Social Courtesies and Guidelines**

1. The student should always conduct him/herself in such a manner as to bring pride to the school, to the student, to his/her parents and to the group that he/she represents.
2. **BAND LOCKERS** (assigned at the beginning of the year) are to be used during the school day and are to be emptied at the end of the day. The lockers are designed to be used to store instruments and folders while the students are in their other classes and are not locked. Instruments/folders are to be taken home at the end of the school day for practicing.
3. Students who store their instruments in the **MUSIC INSTRUMENT STORAGE ROOM** or use a school instrument (larger instruments only) are expected to pack up neatly, close/latch their instrument case after every class, and store their instrument in their assigned storage locker. Many students use the storage room during the course of a day, and it must be kept clean and safe for all. If a student is unable to use the storage room or band lockers appropriately, he/she will no longer be able to use their band locker or the storage room.
4. Students are expected to use appropriate posture and technique when playing their instrument.
5. There will be **NO** gum, food or candy in the classroom or during a performance.
6. No playing of any instrument other than your own (specifically for woodwind and brass students).
7. Affix your name clearly to your instrument case using a luggage tag. This is critical as students from all four houses and all three grades use the band room and music storage area! **INSTRUMENTS MUST BE LABELED!**
8. It is recommended that you keep a record of your instrument make/model and serial number at home, in a personal file.
9. Instruments and music folders are to be brought to every class, morning rehearsal, and performance.
10. Arriving on time for classes, rehearsals, and performances is absolutely necessary.

### **Repairs**

Instruments should be kept in working order at all times. If you rent an instrument, please contact your rental vendor for repair contract information. If you've purchased your instrument, I can recommend local music stores for repairs.

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### **Morning Rehearsals & Concert Information**

#### ***Early Morning Rehearsals***

**BEGINNING in OCTOBER**, SIXTH GRADE BAND STUDENTS WILL HAVE ONE EARLY MORNING REHEARSAL PER WEEK BEGINNING AT 7:30 AM. I will contact you before then with the specific date and will make multiple in-class announcements. The schedule will also be posted on my school-wires site.

WE WILL START PLAYING AT 7:30 AM. Please drop your child off in time for them to be seated and ready to warm-up at 7:25. Extra credit will be given to those students that are seated prior to 7:25! Tardiness is not appropriate as it interrupts the experience for all the students. It is expected that students are ready to rehearse at 7:30 AM. Rehearsals will be every **THURSDAY** morning unless otherwise noted. A full schedule will be posted on my school-wires web site.

We do, however, take breaks from Early Morning Rehearsals (January/early February, late May/June) a few times in the year based on our performances.

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## *Concerts*

Students will participate in a winter and a spring concert! Attendance is mandatory for both concerts. Unexcused absences will be reflected adversely in the student's quarterly grade. Absences will be excused for personal illness or family emergency only.

Please be aware that attendance at concerts is mandatory unless personal illness, or a family emergency makes it impossible. The music department regards concerts as carrying the weight of a mid-term, or final exam, which might be compared to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade capstone project. Absence from a concert, then, will result in the lowering of that quarter's grade. It is in no way intended to reflect negatively on the importance of the various possible conflicts that may arise. In fact, such a judgment would be entirely inappropriate. Rather, it is intended to reflect our regard for the importance of the commitment students make to contribute what they have learned to the success of the ensemble. Each student's effort is important and significant, and each student's musical spirit matters to the authenticity and integrity of the group's performance.

Please recall that this policy was first outlined in the FAQ section of the letter that was sent home to the families of fifth graders at the time the choice of a Middle School music program is being considered.

**Winter Concert: Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM**  
(Students will need to arrive at 7:00 PM.)

**Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:30 PM**  
(Students will need to arrive at 7:00PM.)

## *Concert Attire*

**Girls:** Black skirt (knee length or below) or dress slacks; white shirt or blouse (nothing sleeveless, please); dark shoes. If stockings are worn, they should be natural flesh tone.

**Boys:** Black or dark solid dress slacks; white shirt with long dark tie, dark shoes and socks.

## **Extra-Curricular Performance Opportunities**

### **6th Grade Jazz Band**

**Dr. Slotwinski, Director**

The 6th grade jazz band is an energetic, wonderful group to participate in, and they meet on Tuesday afternoons at 3:30 PM! The 6th Grade Jazz Band performs at least three times per year at SMS and locally! Please speak with Dr. Slotwinski for more details ([jslotwinski@scarsdaleschools.org](mailto:jslotwinski@scarsdaleschools.org)).

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### **The Wind Ensemble/Chamber Group**

**Mr. Nick Lieto, Director**

This brass and woodwind ensemble rehearses on Monday mornings at 7:30 AM and performs smaller group chamber-style music. It is a wonderful opportunity to get small group instruction while strengthening musicianship skills. Please contact Mr. Lieto for more information ([nlieto@scarsdaleschools.org](mailto:nlieto@scarsdaleschools.org)).

## **Essential Questions:**

*Participants will explore and discover answers to the following questions:*

- What is the process of developing technique/facility on an instrument?
- What role does breathing play in developing sound/tone on an instrument?
- How does posture affect tone, technique, endurance and health?
- What is a symbol system?
- What are the elements of music?
- What relationship do elements of music have to each other?
- How does the relationship among the elements of music create musical meaning?
- How can listening skills develop or change through learning the elements of music?
- How can singing help develop aural skills and instrumental technique?
- How does a musician develop rhythmic counting skills to become independent?
- What skills are necessary to be a contributing member of an ensemble?
- What skills are necessary for contributing to successful winter and spring concerts?

## **Grading Information**

Each quarter, your child's grade will be based on the following categories: Participation & Ensemble Etiquette, Class Preparation, Early Morning Rehearsals, and Musical Preparedness & Ensemble Skills. **Please see below for the grading rubric.**

- **Musical Participation during rehearsals and classes**

Each student will actively participate as student musicians in rehearsal by:

- ⇒ Being present, on time and actively playing during rehearsal.
- ⇒ Showing evidence of home practice, including playing assessments.
- ⇒ Being prepared for class with all materials and caring for instruments.
- ⇒ Demonstrating proper warm-up technique.
- ⇒ Retaining, analyzing, critiquing, and performing the repertoire being studied.
- ⇒ Participating in the Winter and Spring Concerts.

- **Contributory Participation**

Each student will:

- ⇒ Contribute positively to the ensemble by treating all members with respect.
- ⇒ Listen actively during class discussions.
- ⇒ Actively participate in class discussion by volunteering responses, answering questions, or asking questions to gather information.
- ⇒ Record information in his/her manuscript book and music that is new and/or needed for future reference.

- **Written Assignments**

Each student **may** receive homework, tests and assessments throughout the year.

### Instrumental Music Quarterly Grading Rubric

<b>Technique and Musicality</b>				
	1	2	3	4
<b>Tone Quality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- embouchure/bow control</li> <li>- breath control/focus of sound</li> <li>- vibrato (where appropriate)</li> </ul>				
<b>Posture</b>				
<b>Accuracy of Pitch</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- including comfort reading music</li> </ul>				
<b>Intonation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understanding of tuning concepts and effort to apply them</li> </ul>				
<b>Accuracy of Rhythm</b>				
<b>Accuracy of Tempo</b>				
<b>Accuracy of Dynamics</b>				
<b>Accuracy of Articulations</b>				
<b>Evidence of Practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- submitting practice assignments as assigned</li> <li>- demonstrating skill development in class</li> </ul>				
<b>Musicianship and Ensemble Etiquette</b>				
<b>Engagement and Active Class Participation &amp; Positive Musical Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- communicates respectfully with peers</li> <li>- willing to help and share knowledge in class</li> </ul>				
<b>Preparation for Class</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- instrument</li> <li>- folder/music/book</li> <li>- pencil</li> <li>- instrument-specific supplies</li> </ul>				
<b>Punctuality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- arrives for class on time and begins unpacking/warming up/following instructions</li> </ul>				
<b>Instrument Care and Maintenance</b>				
<b>Engagement and Active Participation at Early Morning Rehearsals</b>				

## Conversion Chart

54-56 A+

51-53 A

47-50 A-

43-46 B+

39-42 B

35-38 B-

31-34 C+

27-30 C

23-26 C-

22 or below D

## CONCERTS

**\* Please note, students will participate in a winter and spring concert, which occur during the second and fourth quarters of the year.**

Attendance is mandatory for both concerts. Unexcused absences will be reflected adversely in the student's quarterly grade. Absences will be excused for personal illness or family emergency only. Please be aware that attendance at concerts is mandatory unless personal illness, or a family emergency makes it impossible. The music department regards concerts as carrying the weight of a mid-term, or final exam. Absence from a concert, then, will result in the lowering of that quarter's grade. This is in no way intended to reflect negatively on the importance of the various possible conflicts that may arise. In fact, such a judgment would be entirely inappropriate. Rather, it is intended to reflect our regard for the importance of the commitment students make to contribute what they have learned to the success of the ensemble. Each student's effort is important and significant, and each student's musical spirit matters to the authenticity and integrity of the group's performance. Please recall that this policy was first outlined in the fifth grade Middle School Music Program selection materials.

**Scarsdale Middle School Sixth Grade Band  
Course Outline Signature Page**

**Please sign below and return this page to Mr. Lieto by  
September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Student Name**\_\_\_\_\_

**Day** \_\_\_\_\_ **Period**\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature**\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature**\_\_\_\_\_