

HAR-BUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Gregory Crameri, Music Teacher/Director of Bands

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Recently at both of the “Open House Nights” I had the pleasure of meeting with several parents; many of you for the very first time. For those parents that I have not had the opportunity to meet in person please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Gregory Crameri and I am responsible for all activities involved with the Grade 6 and Symphonic Bands at Har-Bur Middle School. This marks my twenty-second year as a public educator and the thirteenth year as a director here in Region 10.

As a music educator I understand the importance of the middle school experience in a child’s life. It is a time to “fine tune” the rudimental aspects of playing while reinforcing the concentration, discipline and respect needed to achieve eventual success at the high school level. In rehearsal I am very demanding and intense, expecting the utmost in musicality, integrity and responsibility from each student; always letting them know that I care about each and every one of them as young adults. My goal is for each student to gain success and feel pride in the accomplishments they attain as individuals and members of the Har-Bur Middle School ensembles.

During the course of the year it may become necessary to utilize audio and video technology to assess student, teacher and/or ensemble progress. Should you be opposed to having your child videotaped during a lesson please contact the Har-Bur Middle School office for a [Videotaping Notice](#) that will waive your son or daughter during such activities.

Enclosed please find a number of informational forms. **NONE** of these documents need to be returned; however, I request that you carefully read the Har-Bur Ensemble Contract. Like the aforementioned videotaping notice I ask that you return this form only if you are not in agreement and/or have questions concerning its content. I assume that all students understand and agree with the requirements of being involved with a performing ensemble. Upon receipt of this form I will personally contact you, to discuss your questions and/or concerns.

Informational Sheets:

*COURSE OVERVIEW: This sheet gives a more detailed description of the course, as well as, the objectives, a listing of assessment measures, and the attendance/grading policies to be used throughout the year.

*LESSON SCHEDULE: The lesson schedule is not actually included in this packet but is attached to this page in the form of a **LINK** that may be accessed by simple clicking on it. I will be responsible for working with the Grade 6 and Symphonic Band lessons throughout the school year.

Please read these forms and become familiar with the days in which your child has a lesson. Reinforcement at home, as well as, in school will increase a student’s chances of greater musical success.

*CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A listing of all music performances and events sponsored by Har Bur Middle School throughout the year. Please take note of events important to Har-Bur instrumental students and their parents. All of these dates may also be found on the Fine Arts website under the CALENDAR tab as well as in each individual ensemble link.

*STUDENT PRACTICE CARD

This is also not included in this packet but there is a **LINK** that may be used should parents wish to print out an extra copy. This is a **copy** of the card that is given to your child once lessons begin. It will be used to track your child's individual practice time throughout the school year. I will check and verify each student's card once a week. I ask that parents verify this card each week since a portion of your child's grade will be determined by the honest efforts given during home practice. Failure, by a student, to present this card may result in reduction in one's overall average. Failure to produce this card more than three times during a marking period may result in 1.) parental contact, 2.) a reduction in the student's average and 3.) the review of status in the ensemble based on requirements agreed to on the student contract.

*STUDENT CONTRACT:

This form is set up much the same as Mr. Deeb has established at the high school level. It requires that the student make a reasonable commitment to their own musical progress and that of the ensemble they are presently participating in.

Again, thank you for your support and cooperation. Should you ever have a question or concern please feel free to call me at school (**673-6163 x7517**) any time. I appreciate your time and look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Gregory Crameri

COURSE TITLE: 6th Grade Band & Symphonic Band

INSTRUCTOR: CRAMERI

Course Description: A course in the development of musical skills involved in instrumental performance of traditional wind and percussion literature commiserate with the individual group's level.

Objectives:

1. To provide the opportunity for making music in ensemble
2. To provide for improvement of motor coordination, aesthetic judgment and general musicianship for the enrichment of life
3. To introduce a diverse variety of musical styles and genres
4. To provide the opportunity for individual growth and achievement
5. To utilize our musical abilities to enrich the lives of others through community involvement
6. To develop a camaraderie within the ensemble
7. To gain familiarity with music notation and vocabulary
8. To refine musical technique and facility on specific instruments

Group lessons:

Each student will be assigned a group lesson that will meet every week.. Attendance at every lesson is very important since more individualized instruction and help may be given to the students at this time. Students may be waived from their lesson if their team class is taking a test that day. A note from the teacher will be the only acceptable excuse if the student is not in attendance that day.

Student Expectations:

- ◆ Demonstrate a mastery of the "Big 6" through musical performance and in written exercises
- ◆ Participate in ensemble rehearsals and lesson groups: connecting and utilizing all facets of rudimentary exercises with the literature selected
- ◆ The attainment or (attempt at achievement) of students' yearly goals as documented in the first quarter
- ◆ Demonstrate proper care and maintenance of personal and school owned instruments throughout the year
- ◆ Performance (clapping/playing) of Rhythm Sheets demonstrating proper rhythmic structures - specifics: gr. 7/8: up to #30 and grade 6: up to #7
- ◆ For Winds & Brass: Performance of 6-8 major scales (gr. 7/8) and 2-3 (gr. 6) by year's end
- ◆ For Percussion: Performance of 6-8 percussion rudiments (gr. 7/8) and 3-4 (gr. 6) by year's end

Multiple Forms of Assessment:

In Rehearsal:

- ◆ Student based assessment of daily/weekly performance
- ◆ Group, game activities - friendly competition within ensemble
- ◆ Written quizzes and tests
- ◆ One writing assignment (following Type 1/2 format), per semester

In Lessons:

- ◆ Lesson attendance
- ◆ Individual/group performance of scales, rudiments, etc.
- ◆ Performance of literature
- ◆ Written assignments
- ◆ Individual, student-based portfolio checklist rubric

Learning Activities:

- ◆ Intersectional games and competitions
- ◆ Analysis and critique sessions based on ensemble performance and use of other recordings
- ◆ Writing exercises
- ◆ Guest artists/speakers/performers

Integration of Technology:

- ◆ Use of sound studio for both listening to models and the recording of the ensembles
- ◆ Use of Power Point presentation at least once throughout the year

Resources:

- ◆ Instrumental literature of various styles, composers and difficulty levels
- ◆ Rhythm Sheets
- ◆ Transposition Sheets
- ◆ Proper Care of Instrument Sheets
- ◆ Practice Cards
- ◆ Scale & Rudiment Sheets
- ◆ Lesson Book: (gr. 7/8) - “Band Plus Method”
- ◆ Several other handouts based on various units of study
- ◆ Standard Literature

Performance Outline:

Performances may include any or all of the following. Additional activities may be added with ample notification.

1. Holiday Band concert 7/8 (December)
2. Northern Region Middle School Auditions (January) – for those students interested in trying
3. Band Chorus Concert - Grade 6 (January)
4. In-school performances (Fall/Spring)
5. Northern Regional Middle School Festival (March) - only for those students who have taken the audition and selected
6. Spring Concert 7/8 (April) (optional from year to year)
7. One Day Adjudication Festival/Field Trip 7/8 (Spring)
8. Big Band Bash (May)
9. Memorial Day Parades 7/8 only

Class Attendance:

Daily attendance will be taken and will be handled in accordance with school policy as outlined in the Student Handbook. Attendance at all performances is Mandatory. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration by the director. An absence, without parental notification, may result in expulsion from the group.

Behaviour & Etiquette:

All students are expected to take responsibility for their actions at all times. Each student will be given 2 chances concerning inappropriate behaviour. When the limit of 2 is met or exceeded the parent will be contacted and decision will be made as to the student’s continued participation in the program.

Standards for Assessment: (Grading Criteria)

- ◆ Attendance at all performances
- ◆ Lesson Attendance
- ◆ Sectional preparation, of literature, in rehearsal
- ◆ Individual progress in lesson groups - i.e., scales, etc.
- ◆ Behaviour and responsibility to the ensemble
- ◆ Individual, student-based portfolio checklist
- ◆ Practice Card use and verification
- ◆ Quizzes/Test (written)
- ◆ An individual Band Assessment based on National Standards - given to each student (gr. 6-8) once a year

Har-Bur Music Department

Calendar of Events

2009-2010

Amy Cleveland, Dawn Marie Conroy, Marc Riccio & Gregory Crameri - Music Teachers

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
October 9	Northern Region Middle School Music Festival Final Sign-ups (Open to all grade 6-8 Har-Bur music students who wish to audition)
December 3	HB 7/8 Choral Concert – LSM Auditorium: 7:30 P.M.
December 17	HB 7/8 Band Concert – LSM Auditorium: 7:30 P.M.
January 9	Northern Region Middle School Festival Auditions (proposed) Site: King Philip Middle School, WH, CT Times: 9:00 a.m.-12:00p.m.
January 14	6th Grade Band/Choral Concert - LSM Auditorium, 7:30 P.M.
January 21	5th Grade Band/Choral Concert - LSM Auditorium, 7:30 P.M.
February 5	HB Coffee House Cabaret – HB Cafeteria, 7:30 P.M.
	March is Music in our Schools Month
March 5-6	Northern Region Middle School Festival Location: Har-Bur Middle School/Lewis Mills High School
March 27	Region #10 Jazz Ensemble Concert –LSM Auditorium, 7:30 P.M.
May 4-5	HB/LSM Choral Festival – LSM Auditorium: 7:30 P.M.
May 6 -7- 8	Big Band Bash - LSM Gymnasium, 7:30 P.M.
May 14	7/8 Choral/Band/Jazz Adjudication Festival – (tentative) Six Flags- specific locations and times: TBA
May 29	7/8 Grade Bands – Burlington Memorial Day Parade: 10:00 A.M.
May 31	7/8 Grade Bands – Harwinton Memorial Day Parade: 2:00 P.M.

HAR-BUR MIDDLE SCHOOL ENSEMBLE CONTRACT 2009-2010

PHILOSOPHY

The quality of every Middle School and future High School ensemble is dependent upon the hard work and determination of each student and the unit as a whole. For a Middle School student to achieve success within the group is dependent upon three things:

1. RESPECT: Respect for oneself, each other, the principles and ideals of the school and community; and most importantly, the respect for the integrity of the music being performed.
2. DISCIPLINE/DEDICATION: The maturity and responsibility to act in an appropriate manner within rehearsals and performances at all times. To demonstrate high standards of performance which can only be achieved through regular practice and hard work. One of the most important responsibilities is to attend all concerts and functions throughout the school year. No ensemble can be successful without such a commitment from its players.
3. CONCENTRATION: A level of higher thinking in which the true emotion and power of the music can be appreciated. It is not merely the mechanics, (i.e. rhythm and notes) but an indescribable feeling that can only be achieved by pushing oneself and the ensemble beyond what is believed they can achieve.

TERMS

As a member of a Har-Bur instrumental ensemble, I understand that:

1. There are only 4-5 major performances throughout the entire school year. ATTENDANCE AT ALLFUNCTIONS IS MANDATORY with the exception of personal illness or family emergency. The integrity of the ensemble must be maintained for the sake of all students involved. Every ensemble is also a class that carries a grade. A student's standing will be seriously affected should he/she not attend a performance without parental notification.
2. Continued daily practice (at least a little bit) is essential to maintain one's "edge" as well as keep up with the ensemble throughout the year.
3. Proper behavior and self-control in class, rehearsal and during performances is of the utmost importance. Consequences due to continual behavioral problems will be severe. (See Below)
4. I must be prepared for the responsibilities associated with being a future member of a high school ensemble. The expectations at the high school level will be much easier if the proper practices are reinforced now while in middle school.

A student will be asked to **resign** from the ensemble should:

- A.) He/she be referred to the office more than once due to disruptive behavior. On the first offense the parent will be contacted (via phone) in the hopes that the behavior will improve.
- B.) He/she demonstrate no effort to enhance the quality of the ensemble (i.e. no practice, negligible lesson attendance, unexcused absences from performances).

AGREEMENT

Having read the aforementioned contract I, and my child, agree to all of the terms discussed within. **This form only needs to be returned should there be a question and/or a concern regarding the terms of the agreement.** Please sign your name below and return it to Mr. Crameri as soon as possible so that he may individually contact you to discuss any questions, you may have, regarding this document.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: _____