

HAR-BUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MARC RICCIO, MUSIC TEACHER/DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Recently at 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 Marc Riccio and I am responsible for all activities involved with the Grade 5 and Concert Bands at Har-Bur Middle School. As a young educator I am extremely excited to share my musical knowledge and experience at 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:

***LESSON SCHEDULE**

I will be responsible for working with the Grade 5 and Concert Band lessons throughout the school year.

***LESSON GROUP FORMS:**

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

While this is not actually included in this packet 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 participate 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 x7155**) any time. I appreciate your time and look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Marc Riccio

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. Riccio 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: _____