

Mission Attendance Area Advanced Elementary Band

2016-2017

Instructors:

Mr. Bill Flaherty/Ms. Emily Moore

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Hello and welcome to another year of band! This packet will give you important information on attendance and behavior policies, concerts, instrumentation, and other helpful ideas. Please read through the entire packet and sign and return the bottom portion of the last page. **Please keep in mind that participation in the Advanced Elementary Band is a YEARLONG COMMITMENT!**

CLASS TIMES AND DAYS

- ◆ **Class Days** – Class will be held generally on **EVERY Thursday** except for school holidays. **Some classes may be added near concert times – SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE.**
- ◆ **Class Times** – Class will be from **5:30-7:30pm** each Thursday.
- ◆ **We communicate via email often.** We find it a great way to get in touch with the parents directly without the student being the “middle man”. Please make sure that you are able to receive e-mails from hopkinsjhsmusic@gmail.com, wflaherty@musicathopkins.com, and geonway@musicathopkins.com.
- ◆ Please try to have your student here **at least 5-10 minutes** before the start of class so that they have time to set up their stand, instrument, and music.
- ◆ Students will need to be **picked up promptly at 7:30pm**. The school will not be responsible for supervision of your student past **7:35pm**. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

ABSENCES AND TARDIES

- ◆ **Absences** – If your student is going to be absent, then please notify Mr. Flaherty by email or phone to notify him of the absence and the reason for it. If your students are absent three or more times, they may be dropped from the class.
- ◆ As we only meet once a week, each rehearsal is extremely important. Please try to schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments on other days of the week besides Thursday.
- ◆ **Tardies** – Students entering late are a big disruption to class. They take away the attention of the students from the teacher by entering the room, making noise setting up their instrument, and moving their stand and chair into place. They also are behind on the days activities and must be caught up. Students who are consistently tardy will be considered for removal from class.
- ◆ **Sports** – Students with after-school sports conflicts should discuss this with Mr. Flaherty as soon as possible so that a schedule for the sports season can be worked out.

CONCERT PARTICIPATION AND DRESS

Students will participate in 3 concerts this school year:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>
Thurs, Jan. 26	7pm	AEB Winter Concert	Hopkins JHS Gym
Thurs, May 25	7pm	Elementary Band Concert #1	Hopkins JHS Gym
Wed, June 7	7pm	Elementary Band Concert #2	Hopkins JHS Gym

Concert attendance is mandatory. Students who miss concerts are missing one of the most fun and rewarding parts of being in band, so please plan other events around these dates. Thank you. Updated concert information can be found at www.musicathopkins.com.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Appropriate attire includes:

- **For Boys: White dress shirt (tie optional) with dark slacks, black socks and black dress shoes**
- **For Girls: White dressy sweater or shirt and dark skirt or slacks, black dress shoes**
- **No caps, jeans, tank tops, shorts, T-shirts or tennis shoes, please. A STUDENT NOT IN PROPER ATTIRE MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM.**

I have chosen this attire because it makes our groups look uniform, neat, and professional. If you have any problems obtaining any of these items, **please talk with Mr. Flaherty or Ms. Moore about it.** Please, do not wait until the week of the concert to ask me about concert attire!!

CLASSROOM RULES AND PROCEDURES

- **Students are expected to be in their seat and ready to play at the start of class. Those who are not ready will be marked as tardy, no exceptions.**
- **ALL STUDENTS must help setup and takedown chairs, stands, and equipment before and after class. Students will not be allowed to leave until everything is put away.**
- **When any teacher or speaker is at the podium, the students will be quiet and attentive “active listeners”.**
- Continuous talking and or playing after the director has stopped the group WILL NOT be tolerated. If you want to speak, RAISE YOUR HAND and wait to be called on. There is to be no continuous playing at the conclusion of each rehearsal.
- Students **must** have a **PENCIL** on their stands AT ALL TIMES during class.
- **Students are to RESPECT all faculty and staff, other students and property.**
- Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed. Do not bring food/drinks in the band room.
- **Every instrument case must be marked with your name. Students are expected to treat their instrument with care and respect and are never allowed to touch or play another student’s instrument, even if the student believes he/she was given permission.**

HOMEWORK**PRACTICE SHEETS**

- ◆ Students will be required to keep track of their practice habits weekly with a practice sheet. Each student must practice for a **minimum** of 1 hour 30 min. per week. That amounts to less than 15 minutes a day!
- ◆ Parents must verify and sign their students practice sheet.
- ◆ **Practice sheets will be handed out in class, or can be downloaded from www.musicathopkins.com.**

PRACTICE TIP – The best way to practice is to spend 15 minutes each day on your assigned music pages or songs. The WORST way to practice is to cram in your hour in only one day. That has no benefit and actually can make you worse by stressing the muscles in your hands, face, etc. by practicing too long. Think of your instrument as a set of weights: You wouldn’t try to lift 300 pounds on your first day, would you? You would slowly work up to it by doing a little each day, then increasing the amount of time you put into it.

WORKSHEETS

A written worksheet will be assigned on the average about once a month. These worksheets are designed to help students learn more about music and be able to read and play their music at a higher level. Worksheets are designed to take about ½ hour to complete.

METHOD BOOKS AND MUSIC

This class will continue to use the “Standard of Excellence” series of books. We will start with Book 1 and may get to Book 2. If you do not yet own Book 2, please do not buy it, because it is included in the \$185 class fee that you paid at the beginning of the year. Students will also receive music folders and several pieces that they will learn and perform at our concerts.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS & AEB

Some after-school sports teams at the elementary schools have practices/games on Thursday afternoons. If your student is involved in one of these, please let Mr. Flaherty know so that accommodations can be made for this Advanced Elementary Band class. (*Fortunately, 7th grade sports at Hopkins do not conflict with band classes in 7th grade!*)

SWITCHING INSTRUMENTS

As I mentioned in the letter that was sent home during the summer, the 6th grade year is the perfect time for students to switch to instruments that will better suit their needs and give them a higher success rate. Many students are now big enough to hold some of the larger instruments, and I have had many in the past make a switch during this time. I will be looking for volunteers and also making suggestions to those who I feel will be better suited and more successful on another instrument. Here is what we are looking for:

Trumpet	French Horn	Baritone Saxophone	Bassoon
Trombone	Baritone	Percussion	Oboe
Bass Clarinet	Tuba	Tenor Saxophone	

Right now we have: 19 flutes, 5 oboes, 19 clarinets, 13 alto saxes, 13 trumpets, 2 French Horns, 9 trombones, & 16 percussionists. We have **NONE** of the other instruments. There may be some school-owned instruments available for use.

A band just isn't a band without these instruments! I will have both junior high and high school helpers, along with sectional coaches, on hand to help students make a comfortable switch and to offer tips and suggestions as well.

HOPKINS INCOMING 7TH GRADE MUSIC PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

In February/March, all 6th grade students in the Mission Attendance Area will be registering for classes at Hopkins JHS for 2017-2018. As part of this process, I will be holding a Music Information Night for parents of all 6th grade music students. **This meeting will be Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 7 p.m. in room M-1.** This will be my opportunity to discuss the registration process for music classes at Hopkins and also the benefits of participating in music in junior high and high school (there are many!). More information will follow.

Hopkins Advanced Elementary Band Rehearsal/Performance Schedule 2016-2017

Changes to Regular Schedule in **BOLD**

September

15 1st Class Mtg. 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 22 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 29 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

October

6 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 13 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 20 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 27 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

November

3 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 10 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**17 Short Class 7:30-8:15 p.m.
 (Large Group Rehearsal Only)**

24 No Class (Thanksgiving)

December

1 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 8 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 15 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

22 No Class (Winter Break)

29 No Class (Winter Break)

January

5 No Class (Winter Break)

12 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 19 Reg. Class 5:30-7:00 p.m.

26 CONCERT 5:45 p.m. Call Time (at Hopkins)

February

2 No Class

9 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

16 No Class (CASMEC Conference)

23 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

March

2 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

9 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

16 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

23 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

30 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

April

6 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

13 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

20 No Class (Spring Break)

27 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

May

4 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

11 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

18 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

25 CONCERT 5:30 p.m. Call Time (at Hopkins)

June

1 Reg. Class 5:30-7:30 p.m.

7 CONCERT 5:30 p.m. Call Time (at Hopkins)

8 No Class

Concerts (ALL CONCERTS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS!**)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>
Thurs, Jan. 26	7pm	AEB Winter Concert	Hopkins JHS Gym
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Music Class Sequence: Mission Attendance Area FUSD (For students beginning in 4th Grade)

Band*

4th Grade: Elementary Beginning Band

This class provides an introduction to the instrument and establishes basics, including music reading, tone production, correct playing techniques, and basic performance techniques. There will be a minimum of one concert. Classes meet at each elementary school once per week for 1 hour.

5th Grade: Elementary Intermediate Band

This class is a continuation of Band, picking up from the end of Beginning Band. It continues on more advanced topics related to music reading, playing techniques, and tone production. There is also a focus on harmony and musical independence. There will be a minimum of one concert. Classes meet at each elementary school once per week for 1 hour.

6th Grade: Advanced Elementary Band

This class involves 6th grade students from all elementary schools in the Mission Attendance Area. It provides a continuation of Band classes, with a focus on large-ensemble performance. It also includes “sectional rehearsals” with instrument specialists. This class is an opportunity for students to switch to some of the larger band instruments (such as trombone, baritone, tuba, bass clarinet, bassoon, etc.) It is also an opportunity for band students to meet and interact with students from other schools that they will be in band class with in 7th and 8th grade. This ensemble performs at least three times per year: in January/February, and two other concerts in May/June. This class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week in the evening for 2 hours, and is taught by the Director of Bands at Hopkins.

7th Grade: Hopkins JHS Concert Band

This class represents the first opportunity for students to have music classes as part of their daily school schedule. Classes meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. Continuation and refinement of skills such as tone production, ensemble balance, blend, and intonation are focused upon. Also, students learn and master an advanced level of music reading, notation, and theory. Many students switch instruments in the class in order to form a balanced ensemble. These students who switch to a new instrument receive private group lessons (by instrument) once per week from the band director. This ensemble performs at a very high level, and requires a lot of musical growth during the year. Concert Band performs at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, as well as traveling to the CMEA Band Festival in the spring, and performing at a Music in the Parks Festival at Great America.

8th Grade: Hopkins JHS Symphonic Band OR Wind Ensemble

These are the second in the comprehensive Band sequence at Hopkins JHS. Classes again meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. This class also continues refinement of all previously learned skills. There is an introduction of more advanced performance and music reading concepts. Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble are each considered to be one of the highest-level middle school/junior high bands in the State of California. This class is designed to prepare students to participate in the bands at Mission San Jose High School. Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble perform at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, including the Mission Attendance Area Concert at Ohlone College. This ensemble also participates in the spring CMEA Band Festival, and travels to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) to participate in the Music in the Parks festival in May. Students in this class have the opportunity to audition for the Hopkins Jazz Ensemble, which is a “Big Band” that meets before school every day. Also, selected students from Wind Ensemble will be asked to play with the Full Orchestra. (Wind Ensemble is a slightly more advanced group with students accepted by audition.)

** There are many exceptions to this sequence, and students always have the option of testing into a higher level if there is space in the class.*

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Please detach this page from packet and return to Mr. Flaherty or Ms. Moore.

I have read the information in this packet and understand the requirements to participate in the Mission Attendance Area Advanced Elementary Band. ***I understand that participation in the Advanced Elementary Band is a YEARLONG COMMITMENT, and that I will attend all performances as scheduled.***

Parent's Name

Student's Name

Parent Signature

Student Signature

E-mail Address: _____

Please return this form now, or on September 22nd, our next class meeting – along with \$190 check payable to “Hopkins Band & Orchestra Boosters”, and the “Emergency Contact Info” page.