

@SOMS *Music*

The Handbook

South Orangetown Middle School Music Department

845-680-1125

www.socsd.org/music

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Dear SOMS Music Parents:

Welcome!

We are fortunate to live and work in a community that is committed to music. Our staff encourages the ongoing evolution and development of musical skills and understanding through the use of current teaching practices and music technology. We study music of the past and present to give students knowledge of a wide range of musical styles and genres. The parental support of the program and students is vital to our continual quest for musical excellence. We believe that staff, parents and students working together on the same team will result in an innovative, creative and expressive experience.

Music helps students become expressive, creative and focused. Over the years, SOMS students and the South Orangetown community have shared music's relationship with our culture through concerts, celebrations, musical theater and more. This handbook has been modeled after similar guides in a variety of exemplary programs and should answer many of your logistical questions as well as provide you with descriptions of the types of experiences in the SOMS Music Program. We look forward to working with you and your child on this musical journey. Please contact your child's teacher with any specific questions.

Sincerely,

The SOMS Music Department

Priscilla Peña-Carney

Jonathan Rossi

Matthew Rotjan

Janice Tocco

Charles Yassky

Music Explore

General Music, in accompaniment to the performing groups (band, orchestra, & chorus), is a classroom experience that focuses upon the mechanics of how and why music sounds the way it does. In order to experience, understand, and apply these concepts students will listen to, analyze, create, and perform musical compositions in class. Since music study is a sequential process, we continue to develop skills learned from previous years while introducing concepts new to each grade level.

Music Explore 6, 7 & 8 will include the following:

- Music History..... How & why music has changed over the years
- Contemporary Music..... How previous and current trends have influenced music of today.
- Listening Skills..... Identifying music fundamentals aurally.
- Composition..... Creating & expressing original musical ideas.
- Music Theory & Notation..... Understanding how to read, write and use music symbols correctly.
- Rhythmic Dictation..... Identifying & reproducing rhythm patterns.
- Tonal Dictation..... Identifying & reproducing pitches and intervals.
- Music Technology..... Using computers to analyze & compose music.

The Middle School General Music Curriculum Overview

6th Grade: In this class, basic music fundamentals (beat, rhythm, notation, melody, & harmony) are reviewed and developed. These pieces are later harmonized using simple chord progressions. Computer software, electronic MIDI keyboards, and various musical instruments are utilized. Unison and part singing is incorporated to reinforce classroom concepts. All 6th grade students are scheduled for one period of General Music each week.

7th Grade: Focus is placed upon a continued development of basic music fundamentals and skills through compositional elements and projects. The history of Western European & American music begins with attention given to the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic time periods. These will be taught through music technology in our new Mac Lab. Compositions and projects utilize elements common to these eras.

8th Grade: Music theory and history study continues from the Contemporary (20th Century) time period through today. A brief history of American popular music is introduced. Popular songs are analyzed and discussed. Students will continue to explore music composition through the use of music technology in our new Mac Lab.

SOMS Choral Ensembles

The SOMS Vocal Ensembles are open to all students. The SOMS vocal ensembles are large groups that meet 8th period (Quiet Study) every other cycle day. Each choral student (except for 6th graders) is also scheduled for weekly small group lessons (see below). The ensembles rehearse and perform music that includes a variety styles- traditional octavo literature from the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods, and popular and jazz selections. Rehearsals begin with focus activities, kinesthetic and vocal warm-ups, and breathing exercises. Students then learn the pitches and rhythms of music written in 2-3 parts, (soprano/alto, baritone) and work toward achieving clear pronunciation, articulation, and an overall choral blend. SOMS chorus groups perform at the Winter and Spring concerts.

Instrumental Ensembles (Band & Orchestra)

Instrumental Music Schedule: The SOMS bands and orchestras are large ensembles that meet 8th period (Quiet Study) every other cycle day. Each ensemble student is also scheduled to receive a weekly small group lesson that rotates throughout the school day (See “*Lesson Procedures*”). These lessons provide students the opportunity to learn specifics about playing his/her instrument that cannot be taught during the full ensemble rehearsal. Therefore, group lessons not only contribute to the individual’s musical achievement, but to the entire ensemble’s as well.

Lessons: Lesson schedules are posted in the beginning of the school year. Students need to check their schedule each week to determine their lesson time. They are responsible for notifying their classroom teacher of their lesson and are accountable for all work or notes covered. All students need to sign out prior to their lesson. In the case of classroom tests or quizzes, instrumental students are responsible for notifying the ensemble director before the scheduled lesson (See “*Lesson Procedures*”).

Instrument Insurance & Protection: Any musical instrument which is owned or rented by a student, parent, or guardian of that student and which is lost, damaged, or stolen while at school, is not covered by our policy. Such coverage is the responsibility of the renter or owner and is generally provided in a homeowner’s policy or even through the store or dealer from which you rented or purchased the instrument. It is for your protection, therefore, that we suggest you contact the dealer from which you are renting, to inquire about instrument insurance. If you own your instrument, it is recommended that you contact your insurance agent and inquire about a personal articles floater which will cover musical instruments and related materials.

Instrument Storage: Although students are assigned and provided an instrument locker in the ensemble rooms for storage during the school day, instruments are to be taken home at the end of the school day in order to practice. For this reason, instruments must always be taken home over the weekends, holidays, and vacations. Musical instruments are a valuable investment. We recommend that you take the necessary steps for their maintenance and protection. All lockers must have a lock.

Band & Orchestra Supply List

Woodwind, Brass, Percussion and String instruments will need additional items in order to function correctly. Although you may already be familiar with some of the necessary accessories needed for your particular instrument, we recommended the following:

IMPORTANT: All reeds wear out and will need to be replaced! *Always* carry a spare reed

FLUTE:

- Cleaning rod
- Cleaning / polishing cloth

OBOE:

- A minimum of at least 2 reeds at all times
- Feather cleaner
- Cork grease

CLARINET / BASS CLARINET:

- A minimum of at least 2 reeds at all times
- Reed guard
- Mouthpiece brush / cleaning swabs
- Cork grease

ALTO / TENOR SAXOPHONE:

- A minimum of at least 2 reeds at all times
- Reed guard
- Neck strap
- Mouthpiece brush / cleaning swabs
- Cork grease

BASSOON:

- A minimum of at least 2 reeds at all times
- Feather cleaner • Cleaning swab
- Cork grease

TRUMPET:

- Valve oil
- Slide grease
- Bore brush cleaner (snake)
- Mouthpiece brush

- Polishing cloth

FRENCH HORN:

- Rotary valve oil
- Slide grease
- Bore brush cleaner (snake)
- Mouthpiece brush
- Polishing cloth

TROMBONE/ BARITONE HORN /TUBA:

- Slide/valve oil
- Slide grease
- Bore brush cleaner (snake)
- Mouthpiece brush
- Polishing cloth

CONCERT PERCUSSION:

- Percussion practice kit featuring: a drum pad, concert bells, collapsible stand, and carrying case
- One pair of 5A drum sticks
- One pair of timpani mallets
- One pair of hard bell mallets

ORCHESTRA SUPPLY LIST

Required Materials

- Instrument, bow, case
- Rosin
- Sharpened Pencils (at least 2 – one for your folder and one for your case)
- Cotton cleaning cloth (old t-shirt, piece of flannel etc.)
- Shoulder rest (violin/viola)
- Rock Stop (cello/bass)
- Music stand for home practice

- Extra set of strings (except basses)
- Mute
- Metronome/Tuner

Concert Attire

The bands, orchestras, and choruses present winter concerts I & II in December and spring concerts I & II in May. Additional performance opportunities may include town wide festivals and master classes. See the calendar in the handbook for established 2008-2009 dates or refer to www.socsd.org/music for possible changes to performance dates.

Concert dress fosters pride and unity within the ensembles and elevates the presentation to the audience. For this reason, we request the following concert dress for the evening performances:

GIRLS

- SOMS Music Shirt
- Black pants (required for cellists) or skirts (skirts at least knee length with stockings or tights)
- Dark shoes

BOYS

- SOMS Music Shirt
- Black pants
- Dark socks
- Dark shoes

**Students are not expected, or required, to make special purchases beyond their means for our performances. Please contact your teacher if there are considerations that we should be aware of and provisions will be made. No individual will be denied a shirt due to circumstances beyond their control.

Grading

Performing ensembles are a credited graded class which meets during period 8. The student's average for the quarter report card grade is determined by the following criteria:

Attendance at Lessons (25%) Students learn the music through work at these classes. Grades are determined for each session based on the student's level of preparedness, motivation, and participation.

Attendance at Rehearsals (15%) It is only by being in class that the student can work with others to achieve a common goal. Attendance at, and being prepared at rehearsals is expected. Lack of attendance will be handled in accordance with the SOMS Student Code of Conduct.

Concert attendance (15%) Concert attendance is mandatory. If the student is absent, and alternate assignment will be given so that this percentage can be factored into his / her final quarter grade.

Effort (25%) It is expected that students will make the required effort to complete any given assignments. This is shown by being prepared for class and working to the best of his/her ability.

Mastery of Music (20%) Performing music is a skill in which many work together to present "as perfect" a performance as possible. With the teacher's guidance, students will work at lessons and at home to learn his/her assigned part. This part, then, is put together with the rest of the ensemble to create the music we perform. Students are expected to practice and participate in any performance and musicianship tests.

Lesson Procedures

Lessons: Lesson schedules are posted in the beginning of the school year. Students need to check their schedule each week to determine their lesson time. They are responsible for notifying their classroom teacher of their lesson and are accountable for all work or notes covered. All students need to sign out prior to their lesson. In the case of classroom tests or quizzes, instrumental students are responsible for notifying the ensemble director before the scheduled lesson

How to read the schedule:

1. Determine Your Lesson Group.
2. Find Your lesson group on the lesson schedule grid
3. Highlight ALL your lesson times on the grid.

4. Write these times in your student planner.

SOMS Music Calendar
 2008-2009 School Year
 (Dates or events can sometimes change)

<u>September</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
8	First Day of School	District	
30	Last Day to Add/Drop Performing Ensemble	Guidance and Teacher	
<u>October</u>			
<u>November</u>			
12 – 23	Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale	SOMS	
<u>December</u>			
11	5 th Grade for In-School Perf. by SOMS Music Dept.	SOMS Auditorium	9:45-10:45 AM
15 & 17	SOMS Winter I & II	SOMS Auditorium	7:30 PM
<u>January</u>			
8-9 (10)	RCMEA Junior All County	For details, Contact: www.rcmea.org/	4-10 PM 9 AM-6 PM
15	Orangetown Community Band	Tappan Zee Elementary	9:30 & 10:30 AM
15	SOMS small ensembles at TZE	Tappan Zee Elementary	AM
22	Orangetown Community Band	Cottage Lane Elementary	9:30 & 10:30 AM
29	Last Day to Add Performing Ensemble for 2 nd Semester	Guidance and Teacher	
<u>February</u>			
<u>March</u>			
5-6 (7)	RCMEA Intermediate All County	For details, Contact: www.rcmea.org/	3:00-6, 9-5
16,17	Spring Musical		8 PM
18	Spring Musical		2 PM
<u>May</u>			
20 & 25	SOMS Spring Concert I & II	SOMS Auditorium	7:30 PM
TBA	NYSSMA Solo Festival	TBA	
<u>June</u>			
TBA	NYSSMA Solo Festival	TBA	
24	SOMS Moving Up Band Performs	TZHS Field	9:30 AM

South Orangetown Music Booster's Association

POB 22 Tappan, NY 10983 – sombanews@yahoo.com

Greetings to all our families in the music community and welcome to a new season with music in SOCSO!

SOMBA, the South Orangetown Music Booster's Association is a support organization whose purpose is to encourage and promote an enthusiastic interest in the various activities connected with the SOCSO music department. We lend moral and financial support to the music programs; cooperate with the music department personnel and maintain an organization of people and parents for the purpose of promoting the programs and general activities of our music program.

Membership is open to any parties interested in supporting the SOCSO Music programs.

In the past, SOMBA has:

- Provided Scholarship Awards for SOCSO music students and graduates
- Provided advocacy for all facets of the music program in South Orangetown
- Sponsored cultural events at SOCSO
- Sponsored culturally based trips within the metro area

We encourage all families to join SOMBA for the 2008-2009 at the suggested membership of ten (\$10) dollars. Your check made payable to: SOMBA can be mailed directly to:

PO Box 22

Tappan, NY 10983

If you prefer, your check can be left at the Cottage Lane, SOMS or TZHS main offices.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the South Orangetown Music Booster's Association, please complete the [on-line form](#).

With Best Wishes for a successful and productive school year.

For SOMBA,

Eileen Carey

Organizing Chairperson

Contract of Commitment

Part A

Probably one of the most important papers in this packet is the Contract of Commitment. Why do we have a contract? Being a member of an organization, team or musical ensemble is a promise. A contract, when signed by the student and a member of their family is a commitment to that promise and the ensembles they belong to. When a member of a sports team misses a game for any reason, it hurts the team. When a member of a musical ensemble is absent, not only is that individual's unique talent missing from the equation, but the ripple effect of their absence is felt by every member. This is why we have a contract of commitment. This is the student's statement that says:

“I am a member of this organization and I will fulfill all obligations.”

Contract of Commitment

Part B

Must be handed in by _____

Probably one of the most important papers in this packet is the Contract of Commitment. Why do we have a contract? Being a member of an organization, team or musical ensemble is a promise. A contract, when signed by the student and a member of their family is a commitment to that promise and the ensembles they belong to. When a member of a sports team misses a game for any reason, it hurts the team. When a member of a musical ensemble is absent, not only is that individual's unique talent missing from the equation, but the ripple effect of their absence is felt by every member. This is why we have a contract of commitment. This is the student's statement that says:

"I am a member of this organization and I will fulfill all obligations."

I have read the handbook for SOMS Music and by signing this, I am making a commitment to follow the guidelines as stated and participate in all rehearsals and performances as listed in this handbook.

Student Name: _____

Print name: _____

I have read the handbook for SOMS Music and by signing this, I am making a commitment to help my child follow the guidelines as stated and participate in all rehearsals and performances as listed in this handbook.

Parent Name: _____

Print name: _____

Date: _____