

Orchestra

**Music Directors – Mrs. Jamieson /Mrs. Deems**

Room – G-133

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**Music Dept. Website:** <https://pantherpridemusic.weebly.com/>

Welcome to a new year with many exciting music making opportunities! Our goal as music educators is to provide your student with a rewarding and comprehensive music education.  This means that all students will be learning the fundamentals of music, including music theory, music history, and learning to play an instrument in the orchestra. Instruments in the orchestra include violin, viola, cello, and double bass.

We look forward to helping your student discover and grow from the many benefits that can be gained from an education in the performing arts!

**Benefits**

Participation in music has many benefits including:

1. Self-expression 4. Listening skills 7. Sense of responsibility
2. Self-awareness 5. Memory skills 8. Collaboration
3. Focus and concentration 6. Problem solving ability 9. Self-regulation skills

**Instruments:**

Instruments can be either rented from a local music store, purchased or borrowed from someone you know or online, or borrowed from the school. Below is a list of local instrument dealers that provide a great rent-to-own program along with maintenance included. If you are unsure which option would be the best for you, we can help.

Got A Gig Music 3661 N. Freeway Blvd. 916-531-1118

Kline Music 2200 Sutterville Rd. 916-456-8742

**Other Equipment:**

Additional items for student success include:

* ***folding music stand*** – students will need to use this while practicing at home and do not need to bring this to school (we have music stands in the band room)
* Method Book:
* Beginning Orchestra – ***New Directions for Strings, book 1***
* Advanced Orchestra – ***New Directions for Strings, book 2***
* Pencil (needs to be in instrument case at all times)
* Rosin for student’s specific instrument

**IMPORTANT:**  No matter how excited your child is about their new instrument, PLEASE make sure they do not remove the instrument from the case and attempt to put it together on their own until the instruction has been given in class.  Important information will be given in class that will prevent damage that may occur if they attempt to put the instrument together on their own.

**Equipment Storage (when on campus):**  The NMS Music Department provides each student with a music locker to store their instrument during the day (students provide their own combinationlock).  Students should plan on taking their instrument home after school to practice.

\*See Instrument storage waiver, sign, and return

**Assignments:**

Every Monday, assignments will be posted for the week, and students will copy this into their agenda. Class time is spent going over concepts and teaching the skills necessary to complete the assignment. Practicing the assignment for the week **IS** our homework.  30-minutes every day is a suggested minimum.  Every Friday we will have a performance test and/or written test. Missed tests can be made up at lunch or after school.  It is the student’s responsibility to make up tests.

**Concerts:**  If and when concerts take place, students will participate in a minimum of two concerts per year which will be counted towards their final grade. In order for a student to be eligible to perform in a concert, they must meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate proper concert etiquette during class time/rehearsals (acting appropriately)
2. Demonstrate the ability to work within an ensemble setting (collaboration)
3. Demonstrate the willingness to do their best and work hard. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior, lack of effort or practicing, and failing to earn a passing grade, will result in a probationary period during which the student’s concert eligibility will be reevaluated.  If the problem continues during this probationary period, a parent/guardian will be notified that the student is no longer eligible to perform in the concert.  Three phone calls home or a failing grade within a semester will automatically result in the student’s ineligibility to perform and the student will be given an alternative assignment to complete in place of the concert.  Please see the attached Performance Contract for more information.

**Concert Attire:** Boys: black dress pants and white dress shirt (with collar and no logos); Girls: black dress pants or black skirt (at or below the knee) with white dress shirt

**Grading Scale:** A = 90-100%  B = 80–89%  C = 70–79% D = 69–60%  F = below 59%

**Grading & Assignments (see alternative grading scale for Distance Learning under the Distance Learning Contract Below)**

35% Daily Performance (5 points per day based on quality of performance during class)

25% Weekly Performance Tests (every Friday)

20%  Written Tests/Reflections/Assignments

20% Concert Performances (based on attendance and quality of performance)

**MYP IB Scale:**

7-8: Excellent Performance

5-6: Substantial Performance

3-4: Adequate Performance

1-2: Limited Performance

0: No Evidence of Performance

**How You Can Help**

Keep in mind that your interest, support, and encouragement are key elements that contribute to the success of your child.  Help your child succeed in music by:

* providing a quiet place to practice
* helping your child to schedule a consistent time for practice
* encouraging your child to play for family and friends
* making sure your child’s instrument is always in good playing condition
* listening to your child practice and acknowledging improvement
* taking time to attend and enjoy any recitals/concerts (when able)

**Communication**

Please email us if you ever have questions or concerns. If you would like to speak over the phone, please send an email with a couple of options of days/times that work for you (after 3:30pm).

Performance Contract

Please review the information, sign at the bottom, and return this form with your student to school.

As we are preparing for a performance, we feel it is important to share our expectations for each student in order to provide the best experience for everyone involved.  While it is our goal to provide every student with the opportunity to experience a performance, it is important to remember that this is a setting used to display the teamwork and effort that has taken place during the course of each semester (a reward for hard work and good behavior/effort).  Therefore, in order to preserve this experience as such, we have outlined specific criteria that must be met in order for a student to be eligible to participate in a performance.

In order for a student to be eligible to perform in a performance, a student must meet the following criteria:

1.) Demonstrate and maintain concert etiquette (shown during class time/rehearsals)

2.) Demonstrate the ability to work effectively within an ensemble setting

3.) Demonstrate the willingness to do their best and work hard

Disruptive or disrespectful behavior, lack of effort or practicing, and failing to earn a passing grade, will result in a probationary period during which the student’s concert eligibility will be reevaluated.  If the problem continues during this probationary period, a parent/guardian will be notified that the student is no longer eligible to perform in the concert.  Three phone calls home or a failing grade within a semester will automatically result in the student’s ineligibility to perform and the student will be given an alternative assignment to complete in place of the concert.

All students are expected and required to participate in concerts and performances. Besides being worth 20% of their grade, being in orchestra is the same as being on a sports team- every team member counts! The performances are our state championships, and every student is necessary to make our performances successful.

I have read and understand all information regarding the NMS Music Dept. concerts:

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  Student Name (print clearly)

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Student Signature   Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature   Date

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Parent/Guardian Email

**Personal Property Waiver**

**(For on-campus, In-Person Learning)**

Students who bring musical instruments and other personal items onto the NMS campus are responsible for the security of those items.  Students will also be responsible for the security of personal items when involved in performing arts activities off campus (e.g. performances, contests, festivals, etc.). NMS is not responsible for student property that is placed on campus at any time or at other locations during school sponsored events. On-campus storage facilities such as the music room and student lockers are provided as a convenience to students.  To ensure security, students need to provide their own ***standard-sized combination locks*** and should take their instrument home each night to practice.

By my (our) signature below I (we) understand that the school does not guarantee the safety or security of stored personal property and I (we) agree to hold the school system harmless in the event of property loss or damage.

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    Student Name (please print neatly)

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            Student Signature                   Date

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      Parent Signature       Date

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Instrument Make/Model                 Serial Number

Music Program Important Dates

**Parent Information Night for Band & Orchestra:**

Thursday, August 19th at 6:00pm – Zoom (link to be sent via email/google classroom)

**Kline Music Instrument Rental and Supplies Night:**

Thursday, August 26st at 5:30 – 7:30pm in the NMS MPR (cafeteria)

**Winter Concerts:**

Tuesday, December 7th:    6:00pm - Beginning Orchestra

  6:30pm - Advanced Orchestra

  7:00pm - Choir

Thursday, December 9thth: 6:00pm - Beginning Band

    6:30pm - Advanced Band

**Spring Concerts**

Tuesday, May 10th: 6:00pm - Beginning Band

6:30pm - Advanced Band

Thursday, May 12th: 6:00pm - Beginning Orchestra

6:30pm - Advanced Orchestra

7:00pm - Choir

All concerts and performances are held at Natomas Middle School.

Performances are required and part of the performing arts grade.

Some other events/performance TBA pending COVID restrictions