



WHAT I WANT FOR MY STUDENTS

Goals for Participants in the Amagansett School Instrumental Music Program

I would like all of my students to **enjoy music!** Hopefully, I can help each student get a deeper understanding and enjoyment from all types of music: the classics, jazz, rock, folk, and music of other cultures.

The Instrumental Program encourages **independent learners**. To achieve this, we spend a lot of time on rhythm reading and sight-reading. Instead of hearing "How does this go?" and, "Was that right?" I like my students to grow to be able to answer those questions themselves.

The Instrumental Program encourages **well-rounded musicians**. To achieve this, I try to expose my students to many different types and styles of music. We cover a variety of historical periods, we explore new instruments, we discuss composers and performers, and we experiment with improvisation and some advanced theory. In full band rehearsals, we perform many different styles of music, and when we are performing an orchestral or piano transcription, we also listen to the original version.

The Instrumental Program helps students to practice **self-assessment**. We will be doing intensive work on learning to be reflective about one's own playing, as well as the performance of the section and the whole group. I want the musicians to be in tune with their own playing and feelings. We are going to practice intellectualizing about what we know and determining what we don't know

Playing an instrument will help your child to **speak the language of music**, to **think in musical terms**, and to **analyze the music intellectually** using these terms. This skill is one that can carry over into all of the student's musical listening, no matter what the style of music.

As they grow in the Instrumental Program, your children will learn to **see the notes on the page as a representation of emotions** and progress towards being able to play the notes musically, and with feeling, whether or not there are specific interpretive instructions.





REHEARSAL TIMES:

- **Instrumental Lessons:** Students will be given lessons during the school day once a week for 30 minutes. Children are pulled out of class for lessons, but we work together with the parents and classroom teachers to choose a lesson time that is best for the child. Please feel free to call me (267-3572) or email me (cgalvin@aufsd.org) if you ever have any concerns about your child's instrumental lesson.
- **Beginning and Concert Band:** All students who participate in the instrumental lessons program are members of at least one performing organization. Fourth graders will all start the year out as members of the Beginning Band. Fifth and sixth graders will all be in the Concert Band. The groups will also perform selections together at our various concerts throughout the school year. The performing group schedules are finalized at the beginning of each school year and **students are expected to attend all rehearsals and all concerts as part of their grade in the program. Rehearsal times will be announced at the beginning of the school year. Notices about any changes in our rehearsal schedule will be sent home in the children's red folder about a week before hand.**

The Instrumental Program Lesson schedule is passed out in hardcopy, and is posted in the music room and each classroom. Again, please help by encouraging your child to write lesson dates and times into his/her planner. It helps to note lessons on the day of the lesson and also in the homework area on the day before so that students remember their instruments and music folders.

FOURTH GRADERS WILL HAVE LESSONS ON THURSDAY FRIDAY AND BEGINNING BAND CLASS ON FRIDAY EACH WEEK.

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADERS WILL HAVE LESSONS ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, OR WEDNESDAY AND CONCERT BAND CLASS ON TUESDAY EACH WEEK





Practice

Practice is what makes the difference. Your child will have a more difficult time keeping up with lessons and learning if you are not hearing **practice at home**. **Minimum practice at home *should be 30 minutes, 5 days a week* for beginning students.**

Consistency is the key here; 10 minutes on four days is better than two hours one day a week. (Even 5 minutes every day will help establish a practice habit and hopefully the habit will grow.)

Please help your young musician with his or her practice. Most elementary school students cannot keep it up themselves. Ideally, spend some time sitting and listening to the student's work and asking questions. Even if you are not a musician, your interest will help! Get him or her to show you what is being worked on and how it all fits together. Praise goes a long way toward sparking interest in the young musician.

As a practice resource, all parents are encouraged to purchase a subscription to *Smart Music Software*. Information about Smart Music is available at www.smartmusic.com.





CONCERTS:

Students who participate in the Instrumental Music Program will perform at various times throughout the year. Besides the annual “Holiday Concert” held every December, “End of Winter Concert,” held sometime at the end of March, and “Concert in the Parks” held at the end of June, students may perform for their peers, at Wake-Up Amagansett Presentations, for the community, or at any other occasion where music may be needed.

Concert and special performance dates are sent home with student papers from school and will also be posted on our website.

Current Concert Dates for the 2017 / 2018 School year are as follows:

**Amagansett Square “Santa on the Square Day”
Date and Time TBA, this is a voluntary community performance**

**Amagansett School “Happy Holidays Concert” ----- Thursday, December 14th
Dress Rehearsal at 1:30 PM, Concert at 6:00 PM**

**SCMEA (Suffolk County Music Educator’s Association) All County Music Festival
***Subject to students nomination by Mrs. Kamp and acceptance into the festival
Band, Chorus or Orchestra by SCMEA representatives, open to students in grades 5
and 6 *****

**Rehearsal #1 – Saturday, March 3rd
Rehearsal #2 – Friday, March 9th
Rehearsal #3 – Saturday, March 10th
Concert – Sunday, March 11th**

**HMEA (Hampton’s Music Educator’s Association) Regional Music Festival
***Subject to students nomination by Mrs. Kamp and acceptance into the festival
Band, Chorus or Orchestra by SCMEA representatives, open to students in grade
6*****

January 12, 13, and 14

**NYSSMA Solo Festival
State Solo Festival. Students may choose to perform vocal and / or instrumental
solos at this festival. More information will follow in January.
June 1st and 2nd at Bellport High School**

**Amagansett School “Spring Concert” ----- Thursday, May 17th
Dress Rehearsal at 1:30 PM, Concert at 6:00 PM**

**Please help teach your young musician the importance of honoring commitments
and please put concert and performance dates on the calendar as soon as they are**

announced. Also, should something come up, please call me. If I know even a half hour beforehand, that time will help me to make arrangements if the student's part needs to be covered.

PLEASE DETACH THIS SECTION AND POST IT ON YOUR FAMILY BULLETIN BOARD. MAKE SURE THESE DATES MAKE IT TO YOUR FAMILY CALENDAR





CONCERT DRESS:

Black pants or LONG skirt. If the student wishes to wear a skirt, please be sure it is fairly full and falls somewhat below the knee when she sits down.

White shirt – This year, all students will receive a concert shirt from Mrs. Kamp the day prior to the concert. All students **MUST** wear their concert shirt in order to perform in the program. Concert shirts will be collected the day after the concert and then passed out again as needed. Shirts must be tucked in!! Boys do not need ties, but may wear them if they wish to do so.

The student should wear the best looking dark shoe he/she has. A concert is a formal occasion, so dress shoes are best.

Remember, the point of a uniform is so that the whole group looks cohesive. Also, concerts are formal occasions and the performers should be dressed up! Thanks for your cooperation.

Parents are encouraged to check out French Toast Official School Wear (<http://www.frenchtoast.com>) as they carry an excellent selection of concert clothing at very affordable prices. They also supply our uniform concert shirt if you wish to order another for your child to keep at home. Just enter QS4GTC in the school source code to find our school's items.





THE BIG “R” WORDS:

I put a heavy emphasis on two words: **Responsibility and Respect**. In some ways, these two words are the bulk of our curriculum.

Responsibility is the key word in a band or any group situation where others rely on your part in the group. It can often be less beneficial to the development of the ensemble as a whole when you have one child who is a real whiz on their instrument but doesn't bring it to rehearsal, misses concerts, or doesn't dress appropriately than if you have students who may not have much technical ability, but are reliable, practice and really try. I try to have each child put their best effort forward because then they cannot help but improve. Responsibility also contributes immeasurably to the group spirit and cohesion!

Respect for ourselves, for each other and for our physical surroundings is of paramount importance to all of us. Being attentive and not talking in rehearsal is one obvious indication of respect. Maintaining a healthy sense of self-esteem, developing good relationships with those around us, and ultimately developing and maintaining satisfying communities in which to live all depend on this second "R word."





GRADING IN THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM:

See next pages for copies of the grading system



Please note!!!

How do I get a good grade in Instrumental Lessons??

- Complete all assignments
- Come to all lessons prepared with your instrument, music, and signed practice book ready to work.
- Attend all concerts we have
- PRACTICE!!!! (Practicing for lessons counts as practice; it does not have to be practice on the band music)
- Try your best and have some fun!

Enrichment through private study, attendance at public concerts, and participation in extra musical activities all benefit your child in numerous ways. There are many opportunities for enrichment in school and outside of school. I often suggest local concerts or special events as well.

