

Robert M. Grable Jr.
Mount Sinai High School
Music Department



Music Student Handbook
2023-24

MOUNT SINAI UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

MUSIC, FINE & APPLIED ARTS

NORTH COUNTRY ROAD, MOUNT SINAI, NEW YORK 11766

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Tricia Panasci
Director of Music & Applied Arts

Dr. Christine Criscione
Superintendent of Schools

September 2023

Dear Parents and Students,

We are excited to begin the 2023-24 school year!

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize you with all of our performing ensembles, and to eliminate any confusion as to what is necessary to be a successful music student at the high school. Contained within are detailed explanations of our grading policy, rehearsal and performance requirements, concert dates, and all activities and groups sponsored by our department.

Please read the information carefully, and sign and return the form which was distributed by the music teachers. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's music teacher or the Music office at (631)870-2880.

We look forward working with our student musicians and wish you all the best for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tricia Panasci

Director of Music & Applied Arts

Ms. Kathryn Toolan
Choir Director

Ms. Sarah Marceau
String & Concert
Orchestra Director

Mr. Robert Moriarty
Concert & Symphonic
Band Director

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Philosophy and Goals

In every culture, music plays an important role in the quality of life. Music education can be a means to instruct in both our culture and those foreign to us. Music education can also be a method by which students can personally enrich their lives through self-expression, problem solving and aesthetic development. The goals of the High School music program are:

1. Students will acquire knowledge of both their culture and of other cultures foreign to their own.
2. Students will develop strong techniques through lessons and ensemble performing.
3. Students will be able to understand the basic structure of music both from theoretical and historical perspectives.
4. Students will learn cooperation and respect by being a part of a performing organization. Each member is an important part of the whole, and success is dependent upon each member's participation.
5. Students will be able to make value judgements of musical works and support their statements.
6. To encourage all students to participate, in some capacity, in one or more of our performing organizations.

PERFORMING GROUPS

Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Choir, String Orchestra, Concert Orchestra

Each of these organizations meets every school day, as part of a student's course schedule. Successful participation in any of the above will allow students to gain one (1) credit toward high school graduation.

Only those students registered for and participating in the ensemble rehearsals will be permitted to perform at the annual concerts.

Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra

These groups meet outside of the school day. Membership in Jazz Band and Chamber Choir is determined by auditions, which take place at the beginning of the school year. Successful participation in these ensembles will allow students to gain one-half (1/2) credit per year. Grading for these courses will be pass/fail.

Students who choose to participate in either of these ensembles must remember that these are classes and attendance at rehearsals is mandatory. Excessive absence will result in expulsion from the ensemble and/or a failing grade for the year. If a student is legally absent from school on the day of a scheduled rehearsal, he/she will be excused from the ensemble rehearsal.

Other Chamber Ensembles

These can be organized at the discretion of the instructor and can include Treble or Men's Choir, Chamber Orchestra, or Wind and Percussion Ensembles. No credit is given for participation in these groups, however, participation in them greatly increases the performing and service opportunities for the students.

Honor Organizations

SCMEA Division III - sponsored by the Suffolk County Music Educators Association. Students in Grades 9 and 10 are chosen from eastern Suffolk County by a committee of SCMEA members using teacher recommendations and NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble results.

LISFA - sponsored by the Long Island String Festival Association. This String Orchestra is comprised of Middle School students from all of Suffolk County. Membership is based upon NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble results and teacher recommendations.

All-County - sponsored by the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) and the Suffolk County Music Educators Association (SCMEA). These groups are comprised of students in grades 11 and 12 from all over Suffolk County. Membership is based upon NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival results.

All-State - sponsored by the New York State School Music Educators Association (NYSSMA). Selection to an All-State ensemble is highly competitive and is based upon an All-State audition held at the annual NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival.

All-Eastern - sponsored by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). This is the highest achievement possible for a high school music student. Members are selected from thirteen states by the results of their All-State auditions.

All-County Jazz, Vocal Jazz, Percussion, and Tuba Ensembles- these groups are specialized for students in the areas mentioned. Participation is highly competitive and is based solely on auditions held by SCMEA at various times during the school year.

NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival - This festival, sponsored by the New York State School Music Association, is designed to give students an opportunity to perform and be evaluated as a soloist. Students participating in this festival choose a solo from a designated list, prepare the solo with the help of their teacher and perform their solo for one adjudicator. Additional performing requirements include a sight-reading example and scales. Participation in this festival is helpful in gaining membership to the above-mentioned honor groups.

In addition to preparing solos, students may also perform in duets, trios, etc. following the same criteria as the soloist. There is no sight reading or scale component for ensemble auditions. The results of these performances cannot be submitted for consideration for membership in an Honor Organization.

TRI-M National Music Honor Society- sponsored by NAfME.

To meet membership requirements, you must:

- Be a current member of Band, Choir, or Orchestra.
- Maintain a grade point average of at least 85% overall, with at least a 90% average for all music classes taken.
- Have completed a NYSSMA solo performance of at least a V A- or VI B+
- Have never been the subject of a disciplinary referral and/or violation of the District's Code of Conduct during your High School academic career.

Honor Organizations (cont.)

The date of the TRI-M Induction Ceremony will be announced at the start of the school year.

Members act as representatives of Mount Sinai High School at various public performances throughout the year and are a service organization in the department.

In order to be considered a member in good standing, a student must:

- Participate in at least one ensemble, as well as performances throughout the year.
- Attend all TRI-M meetings.

The faculty advisor(s) will determine eligibility for “*Continued*” and “*Life*” memberships.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Any music student and parents/guardians of any music student attending, or planning to attend the Long Island High School for the Arts should know the following:

- They may not audition for membership in any All-State organization, nor can they be a member of any of the Honor Organizations listed above, unless they are a member of the *Mount Sinai High School* band, orchestra, or chorus.
- Participation in any organization at BOCES does not qualify students for membership or make them eligible to apply for membership, or audition for, any county or state organization.
- Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, and/or Chamber Orchestra do not satisfy the membership requirement.

This is not our rule, but NYSSMA’s rule. It cannot be changed or appealed by any member of the music department, nor can a member of the music department write an All-State or All-County recommendation for any student attending the High School for the Arts unless they are a member of the teachers’ performing organization and attend lessons on a regular basis.

Additionally, any student who resides in, and receives a diploma from, Mount Sinai must be registered for a NYSSMA evaluation through Mt. Sinai High School.

Expectations

Music

Each student will be assigned a numbered folder and/or printed music to be performed at the upcoming concert. Each student is responsible for this music. If the music is lost or damaged, the student will be responsible for the cost of replacing it. All markings in the music must be made in pencil. Any music with pen marks will be considered destroyed.

Concerts

Attendance at all concerts is **mandatory**. The only exceptions are for extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency, etc.). Because all of our concert dates are published well in advance, vacation plans or work will not be considered excused absences.

Please contact the music teacher as soon as possible if a problem concerning attendance at a concert is foreseen. Any unexcused absence from a concert will result in an ***automatic failing grade*** for that quarter.

Concert Rehearsals

It is often necessary for performing organizations to run a dress rehearsal during the school day prior to a performance. In these instances, the amount of time out of class is kept to a minimum.

Lessons

Lessons are an important part of membership in our instrumental ensembles. Each teacher develops a lesson schedule that rotates through the day on a weekly basis. This schedule ensures that a student will only miss the same academic class once a month, or less. These lessons are the time when students concentrate on the technical aspects of their instrument that enable them to achieve in the large organization. If a student must miss their weekly lesson because of a test or other activity, they should notify their music teacher and arrange a time when the lesson can be rescheduled.

Seating and Solo Auditions

All seating and solos in any ensemble will be decided by audition. The outcome of these auditions are the sole responsibility of the teacher in charge. All decisions are final.

Concert Dress

The following is to be worn at all performances by all ensembles, unless otherwise directed by the instructor:

Boys- Black pants, black shoes, dark socks, black shirt, black tie, black jacket.

Girls- Black dress pants or long skirt, black shoes, black shirt.

SNEAKERS OR FLIP-FLOPS ARE NOT TO BE WORN AT CONCERTS

If you have any questions or concerns regarding proper concert dress, please do not hesitate to contact us a 631-870-2800.

Grading

Grading for ensembles is based upon participation, performances, and lesson attendance. For each marking period, each student will receive a lesson grade (40%), performance grade (30%) and a class participation grade (30%). These three grades are averaged together to form the final average for the quarter. Various other grades may be incorporated into your final grade at the discretion of the instructor, such as folder checks, written exams, quizzes, etc.

Participation Grade

For each rehearsal, a student will receive a participation grade of 2, 1, or 0. This grade is based on participation, preparedness and behavior. At the end of the marking period, all the daily grades will be added up and that will be the participation grade for that quarter (Based on a 10 week, 5 days a week schedule, a student who receives all twos will receive a 100.)

Performance Grade

Playing and singing exams will be given at least once every quarter. Students will be asked to prepare sections of music that will be graded. Students may also be asked to sight-read, play scales, or play etudes at the discretion of the teacher.

Lesson Grade

All students will receive a weekly lesson grade based on a 100 point scale. All Students will attend a maximum of two lessons (1 regularly scheduled lesson, 1 make-up) per week. Lessons that are not made up in a timely manner will result in a lesson grade reduction. If the lesson is not made up by the end of the quarter, the student will receive a grade of 0 for that particular lesson.

MOUNT SINAI MUSIC DEPARTMENT CALENDAR 2023-24

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|----------------|--|------------------|
| Nov. 3 | SCMEA Day of Tuba & Euphonium @Central Islip HS | 3:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 3 & 4 | HS Drama Production in auditorium | 7:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 8 | NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Rehearsal #1 @Connetquot HS | 4:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 16 | NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Rehearsal #2@Northport HS | 9:00 a.m. |
| Nov. 17 | NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Rehearsal #3@Northport HS | 4:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 17 | NYSCAME/SCMEA All-County Concert @Northport HS | 7:00 p.m. |
| Nov. 29 | Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Ceremony in HS Auditorium | 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 30-Dec. 3 | NYSSMA All-State Winter Conference, Rochester, NY | |
| Dec. 4 | MS Winter Concert #1 (5 Chorus, 6 Chorus, 5 Band, 5 Orchestra) | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 5 | MS Winter Concert #2 (6 Band, 6 Orchestra, 7 Band) | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 6 | MS Winter Concert (7/8 Chorus, 7/8 Orchestra, 8 Band) | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 11 | HS Winter Concert #1 (String Orchestra, Concert Band) | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 12 | HS Winter Concert #2 (Concert Orchestra, Sym. Band, Chorus) | 7:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 13 | ES Winter Concert | 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 5 | LISFA Secondary Rehearsal #1 | 4:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 6 | LISFA Secondary Rehearsal #2 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Jan. 7 | LISFA Secondary Concert | 1:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 12 | SCMEA Day of Horn @Northport HS | 3:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 19 | LISFA Intermediate Rehearsal #1 | 4:00 p.m. |
| Jan. 20 | LISFA Intermediate Rehearsal #2 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Jan. 21 | LISFA Intermediate Concert | 1:00 p.m. |
| Feb. 2 | SCMEA Day of Percussion @Sagamore Middle School | 3:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 27 | HS Ensemble Concert | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 2 | SCMEA Div. I, II & III Rehearsal | tba |
| Mar. 8 | SCMEA Div. I, II & III Rehearsal | tba |
| Mar. 9 | SCMEA Div. I, II & III Rehearsal | tba |
| Mar. 9 | SCMEA Div. III Concert @Southampton HS | 7:30 p.m. |
| Mar. 10 | SCMEA Div. I & II Concerts | 1 & 5 p.m. |
| Mar. 21-23 | HS Musical Production | 7:00 p.m. |
| Apr. 12, 13 | NYSSMA Solo Festival @Wm. Floyd HS | tba |
| May 17 | District Wide Art Show in HS Gymnasium | 7:00 p.m. |
| May 29 | HS Spring Concert #1 (String Orchestra, Concert Band) | 7:30 p.m. |
| May 30 | HS Spring Concert #2 (Concert Orch., Symph. Band, Chorus) | 7:30 p.m. |
| June 6 | ES Spring Concert | 7:30 p.m. |
| June 10 | MS Spring Concert #1 (5 Chorus, 6 Chorus, 5 Band, 5 Orchestra) | 7:30 p.m. |
| June 11 | MS Spring Concert #2 (6 Band, 6 Orchestra, 7 Band) | 7:30 p.m. |
| June 12 | MS Spring Concert #3 (7/8 Chorus, 7/8 Orchestra, 8 Band) | 7:30 p.m. |