

# **MOUNT SINAI UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## ***MUSIC, FINE & APPLIED ARTS***

***NORTH COUNTRY ROAD, MOUNT SINAI, NEW YORK 11766***

***(631) 870-2880***

***FAX: (631) 870-2824***

*Christina Romeo*  
*Assistant Principal/  
Director of Music & Applied Arts*

*Gordon Brosdal*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

September 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

We are excited to begin the 2020-21 school year. Although this year will be unlike any other, our department is committed to providing Music Instruction and performance opportunities to our students.

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. Attached is a tentative schedule of concerts and events. Decisions regarding in-person concerts and events will be determined at a later date and will adhere to state and local guidelines as well as district policies.

Please read the information carefully, and sign and return the form which was distributed by the music teachers. If you have any questions or would like to meet with any member of the department, please do not hesitate to call. The Music Department number is 631-870-2882.

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

Sincerely,

*Christina Romeo*

HS Assistant Principal &  
Director of Music & Applied Arts

*Eric Blatt*

Choral Director

*Sarah Marceau*

Concert & String Orchestra Dir.

*Thomas Marceau*

Concert & Symphonic Band Dir.

CR/cm  
Attachment

# Mount Sinai High School Music Department

## **Student Handbook**

### **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 contains many facets: mathematics, science, history and language. Each of these facets can be instructed and enhanced through kinesthetic, visual, auditory and cognitive activities. Music education can 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. The student will acquire knowledge of both his/her culture and of other cultures foreign to their own.
2. The student will be able to make value judgments of musical works and defend his/her statements.
3. The student will be able to understand the basic structure of music both from theoretical and historical perspectives.
4. The student will develop strong techniques through lessons and ensemble performing.
5. The student will be able to express his/her feelings by interpreting music.
6. Perhaps most importantly, the student 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.

## **Performing Organizations**

### **Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Choir, String Orchestra, Concert Orchestra**

These are our major ensembles. They meet every day and successful participation in any of the above will give the student one (1) credit for each year of participation.

An important part of membership in the above ensembles is the rotating lesson. Each teacher develops a lesson schedule that rotates through the day on a weekly basis. This is the time when students concentrate on the technical aspects of their instrument or voice 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 the music teacher and arrange a time when the lesson can be rescheduled.

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

### **Instrumental Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble**

These two groups meet outside of the school day. Membership is determined by auditions, which take place at the beginning of the school year. Successful completion of either of these courses gives the student one-half (1/2) credit per year. Students receive a grade of either PASS or FAIL.

Students who choose to participate in either of the Jazz 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 scheduled rehearsal, he/she is excused from the ensemble rehearsal and will not be penalized.

### **Chamber Ensembles**

These can be organized at the discretion of the instructor and can include Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra or Wind and Percussion Ensembles. No credit is given for participation in these groups; however, participation in them greatly enhances the performing opportunities of the students. Anyone interested in being part of a smaller ensemble should contact either Mr. Blatt, Ms. Marceau, or Dr. Marceau at the beginning of the school year.

## **Honor Organizations**

- 1.) **All-State** - sponsored by the New York State School Music 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.
- 2.) **All Eastern** - sponsored by the Music Educators' National Conference (MENC). 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.
- 3.) **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 juniors and seniors from all over Suffolk County. Membership is based upon NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble auditions and teacher recommendations.
- 4.) **SCMEA Division III** – sponsored by SCMEA. 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.
- 5.) **Long Island String Festival** - sponsored by the Long Island String Festival Association (LISFA). This String Orchestra is comprised of high school students from all of Suffolk County. Membership is based upon NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble results and teacher recommendations.
- 6.) **All-County Jazz Ensemble**  
**All-County Vocal Jazz Ensemble**  
**All-County Percussion Ensemble**  
**All-County Tuba Ensemble**

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.

- 7.) **NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival** - This festival is held once a year at different locations throughout the county. It 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 director and perform their solo for one adjudicator. In addition to performing their solo, students also are required to perform a sight reading example and scales. These auditions are 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.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

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

He or she cannot audition for membership in any All-State organization, nor can he/she be a member of any All-state or All-County organization (SCMEA, LISFA, NYSCAME, Jazz, etc.)

unless he/she is a member of the SCHOOL'S – meaning Mount Sinai High School's – 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 even audition for, any county or state organization. Jazz Band, Jazz 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 me or any member of the music department. The music staff will not write an All-State or All-County recommendation for any student attending the High School for the Arts unless he/she is a member of the teachers' performing organization and attends lessons on a regular basis. Also, BOCES does NOT have the authority to override the home school and recommend a student on their own. Any student who resides in Mount Sinai and receives a diploma from this institution must be registered for a NYSSMA evaluation through Mt. Sinai High School.

- 8.) **TRI-M National Music Honor Society** - sponsored by MENC. Membership requirements are as follows:
- a.) A freshman, sophomore, junior or senior in high school
  - b.) A current member of Band, Chorus or Orchestra
  - c.) A grade point average of at least 85% overall, with at least a 90% average for all music classes taken.
  - d.) A high school NYSSMA solo performance record of at least a V A- or VI B+
  - e.) Have never been the subject of a disciplinary referral, in-school or out-of-school suspension as a result of actions in any performing organization.

The date of the 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. Students are **regularly** expected to participate in all performances and to attend meetings to be considered members in good standing. The faculty advisor will determine eligibility for "*Continued*" and "*Life*" memberships.

## **Expectations**

### **Music**

Each student will be assigned a numbered folder and printed music to be performed at the upcoming concert. Students will be responsible for this music. If the music is lost or destroyed, they will be responsible for the cost of replacing it.

DO NOT WRITE ON MUSIC WITH PEN. Each student should be prepared with a pencil for any markings made in the music. Any music with pen marks will be considered destroyed.

### **Attendance**

**Concerts** - Attendance at all concerts is **mandatory**. The only exceptions are for legitimate excuses (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 legitimate excuses. 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 marking period.**

**Lessons** - Lesson attendance is mandatory. Any missed lessons must be made up. There will be one make-up lesson scheduled each week. Any lessons that are not made up will count as zeros at the end of the marking period. It is also possible to schedule make-up lessons after school, during lunch, etc. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange these times with the instructor.

### **Solo Audition**

All solos in any ensemble will be chosen by audition. The format of these auditions will vary depending on the type of solo in question. The outcome of these auditions are the sole decision of the teacher in charge and all decisions are final.

### **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, exams, quizzes, etc.

**Participation Grade** - For each rehearsal, a student will receive a participation grade of 2 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 two's will receive a 100.)

**Performance Grade** – Playing 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 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.

### **Concert Dress**

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

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

Girls - Loose-fitting black pants, black blouse (sleeveless and or blouses that do not cover the midriff are not permitted), dark shoes.

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

## **Awards**

The following is a list of awards given to graduating seniors who have demonstrated a dedication to the department that distinguishes them from their peers. These students have come to exemplify those qualities we look for in a music student and have achieved excellence in their chosen area of performance. Selection is determined by the music faculty.

Mount Sinai High School Choral Award  
Mount Sinai High School Instrumental Award for Band  
Mount Sinai High School Instrumental Award for Orchestra  
National School Choral Award  
National School Orchestra Award  
Director's Award for Chorus  
Director's Award for Orchestra  
John Philip Sousa Band Award  
Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award  
Woody Herman Jazz Award  
Louis Armstrong National Jazz Award  
Arion Award (for all -around achievement)  
Musicianship Award

## TENTATIVE MOUNT SINAI MUSIC DEPARTMENT CALENDAR 2020-21

*\*\*\*Decisions regarding in-person concerts and events will be determined at a later date and will adhere to state and local guidelines as well as district policies.*

Friday, November 6	SCMEA Tuba Day @Central Islip
Tuesday, December 1	Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction, 7:00 P.M. @HS
Tuesday, December 8	MS Winter Concert (5 Orchestra, 5 Band, 5/6 Chorus) 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 9	MS Winter Concert (7/8 Orchestra, 7/8 Chorus, 8 Band) 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 10	MS Winter Concert (6 Band, 7 Band, 6 Orchestra) 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 14	HS Winter Concert #1 (Concert Band, String Orchestra) 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 15	HS Winter Concert #2 (Concert Orch, Chorus, Sym. Band) 7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 16	ES Winter Concert (Band, Orch. & Chorus Informance) 7:00 p.m.
Friday, January 8	SCMEA Day of Percussion
Friday, January 8	LISFA Secondary Rehearsal 4:00-9:00 p.m. Hauppauge HS
Saturday, January 9	LISFA Secondary Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.-2:00p.m.. Hauppauge HS
Sunday, January 10	LISFA Secondary Festival Concert 1:00 p.m. Hauppauge HS
Friday, January 15	SCMEA Day of Horn @Northport HS
Friday, January 22	LISFA Intermediate Rehearsal 4:00-8:00 p.m. Longwood HS
Saturday, January 23	LISFA Intermediate Rehearsal 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Longwood HS
Saturday, January 23	LISFA Intermediate (Gr. 6) Concert. 2:00 p.m. Longwood HS
Sunday, January 23	LISFA Intermediate (Gr. 5, 7&8) Concert. 1:00 pm Longwood HS
Sunday, January 31	LISFA Chamber Festival 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Staller Center
Tuesday, February 9	MS POPS Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10	HS American Music Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 11	District Wide String Festival, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 22	HS Ensemble Concert, 7:00 p.m. @HS Library
Thursday, February 25	NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County Rehearsal #1 3:00 p.m. Northport
Friday, February 26	NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County Rehearsal #2 9:00 a.m. Northport
Friday, February 26	NYSCAME/SCMEA HS All-County Concert 7:00 p.m. Northport
Tuesday, March 2	MS/HS Jazz Night, 7:00 p.m
Thursday, March 4	ES Music Information Night, 7:00 p.m. @ES Cafetorium
Saturday, March 6, 12, 13	SCMEA Div. I, II, II Rehearsals (time & place TBA)
Saturday, March 13	SCMEA Div. III Concert 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 14	SCMEA Div. I & II Concerts 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Monday, March 15	NYSSMA Piano Festival Riverhead (time TBA)
Friday, April 9	NYSSMA Jazz/Guitar/Drum set Festival @W. Islip
Fri.-Sat., April 16-17	NYSSMA Solo & All-State Festival @Longwood
Thurs.-Sat., April 22-24	High School Musical
Monday, May 17	HS Spring Concert #1 (String Orchestra, Concert Band), 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19	NYSSMA Instrumental Majors @ West Islip



Wednesday, May 19	MS Spring Concert (5 Band, 5 Orchestra, 5/6 Chorus), 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 20	NYSSMA Choral Majors @ West Islip
Thursday, May 20	ES Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 25	HS Spring Concert #2 (Symp Band, Chorus, Concert Orch.), 7:00
Wednesday, June 2	MS Spring Concert (7/8 Orchestra, 7/8 Chorus, 8 Band) 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 3	MS Spring Concert (6 Band, 7 Band, 6 Orchestra) 7:00