

Dear Orchestra Parent,

As you know, our Spring Concert is on **TUESDAY, MAY 8, 7:00 pm**, I encourage you to invite EVERYONE to attend the concert. We welcome Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents, neighbors, etc. The concert is free and no tickets are required. We will be joining forces with Miss Wood's Guitar classes for the concert. If you need to do a drop-off/pickup: **PLEASE make arrangements to pick up your child by 8:15.**

**Call Time** 6:15 – it will take everyone some time to park, get to the band room and set up in the cafeteria for the concert. All students should be seated, tuned and **READY TO PLAY** by 6:45.

**Concert Dress**

- **SHIRTS**: Orchestra 1: BOrc T-Shirts. Orchestra 2: Black Dress Shirts.
- **PANTS/SHOES**: Black pants, black socks, and black shoes for everyone.
- **HEAD**: An optional "festive" hat.
- **Jeans and sneakers are not acceptable concert attire.**

The exact performance order is still being hashed out. The Guitar 1 & Orchestra 1 classes will go first, then after a seat swap the Guitar 2 & Orchestra 2 classes will perform. The Guitar Classes will play on the stage. The Orchestras will perform in front of the stage.

All Orchestra members are expected to stay for the entire concert. After the last group has finished their performance we will need all students to help take the equipment back to the band and chorus rooms. If everyone pitches in we should be done by 8:30.

Please sign the letter below and return it to Mr. Nichols by **FRIDAY, MAY 4<sup>th</sup>**. Returning the letter will be part of the 4<sup>th</sup> term grade. Students are expected to be at the concert whether they return the letter or not. **THIS IS NOT A PERMISSION SLIP!!!!** All students will need to be at the concert!! Please note that unexcused absences from the concert will incur a "0" for a concert grade. Notes for excused absences need to be turned in by Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>, pre-arranged excuses must be in by Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> in order to be accepted. See the orchestra handbook & orchestra webpage for more information on concert attendance.

In order to keep the evening running smoothly we are looking for a little parent help. Below you will find a list of spots where we could use your assistance. Have no fear; you will not miss ANY of your child's performance by helping out. Thank you for your assistance, I think this will help everyone's enjoyment of the evening and make for a smoother performance. Need more info? Check the band and orchestra webpage:  
<http://teacherpress.ocps.net/keithnichols>

Musically,

Mr. N

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I have read the above letter and gone over the information with my child

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)      Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_ **YES! I can help out!** Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)  
Check the area(s) below where you would like to supervise!

**PRE-CONCERT**: Band Room Supervision \_\_\_\_\_ (3-4 parents)  
Help student get their equipment ready and shoo students out to the cafeteria when they are ready.

**DURING the Concert**: Stage Supervision \_\_\_\_\_ (3-4 parents per band, all grades)  
This is where we need the most help to keep the students quiet while the guitar ensembles are performing. If left unsupervised, some students will make poor choices and disrupt the concert. With parents sitting with them, they will be much quieter than if no one is there to encourage GOOD behavior. Please note – you will NOT miss your child's portion of the concert. The supervision is only after we've finished playing

**POST-CONCERT**: Strike Supervision \_\_\_\_\_ (all hands on deck)  
All of the chairs, stands, and instruments must be returned to the band and chorus rooms. If parents and band officers can supervise the re-setting of chairs and equipment in the rooms the strike will go much faster.

One of my goals for each performance has nothing to do with the musical portions of our concerts. My biggest concern over the last few years has been audience noise and student noise during our performances. Yes, we do perform in a cafeteria, with a lot of background noise from the kitchen and it is not the best atmosphere: visually or acoustically. If we were to use a HS auditorium, our performance would take 3 hours and the students would need to wait in adjoining rooms to fit our audience members in the auditorium. Here is what we can do to make the performance enjoyable for all participants.

- The students will remain seated and silent when they are not performing. As I've coached them in class; we can control our own behavior and set a positive example for the audience. (please consider signing up to help on the other side of the letter)
- I am imploring the audience members to sit quietly during the performance. Your child may only be in one of our five ensembles and it may be difficult for you to see the ensembles on the far side of the gym. With that in mind; it will be simpler for you to at least hear the other performers if you are quiet.
- Please refrain from breaking the "fourth wall" between the ensembles and the audience. I know you wish to get an up-close video of your child performing (I have a 6<sup>th</sup> grader in the Beginning Band-I'm with you), however it is a VERY large distraction for the ensemble members if there are 4 or 5 parents hovering nearby recording video. Please record from your seat in the gym.
- Our students work very hard in class and I want everyone to hear the results of their hard work. Our performances are a progression of experience from the Beginning Band to the Wind Ensemble. Please listen attentively to all performers to either see how your child can grow musically or remember where they've come from musically. Below you will find the FMEA's "Ten rules of concert etiquette". I thank you for your attentiveness and I look forward to seeing at our performance!

### THE TEN RULES OF CONCERT ETIQUETTE

**1. Refrain from talking.** The first and greatest rule: It also includes whispering to or disciplining your other children.

**2. Refrain from unwrapping** noisy candy wrappers during the performance. If the composer wanted to include crinkle paper noises to the music, he/she would have written it into the parts.

**3. Turn off pagers and cell phones.** While many cell phones and pagers have symphonic like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score, nor do they provide pleasant sounds for your neighbors.

**4. Do not wave to your children during the concert.** After all, they do know who you are already, and they know you are there; you most likely brought them to the concert.

**5. Do not take flash photography.** You do not want your child to fall off the stage from blindness, do you?

**6. Do not walk down the center aisle with your video camera or phone.** Video cameras and phones work just as well from the back of the auditorium.

**7. Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over.** All of the students deserve a full audience for their performances. Remember, next time your child's song(s) could be last.

**8. Applaud at appropriate times.** Some musical selections have several sections. Remember, it's not over until all of the sections of that selection have been performed. A good guide is to wait for the conductor to lower his arms.

**9. Do not leave the auditorium during the music.** Wait for a break in the concert to visit the restroom, unless you are carrying a screaming child, in which case you should leave quietly and quickly. ***PLEASE!***

**10. Go to the concert expecting the best.** You might just be surprised how good your student sounds when the other students join in!