

Somerset High School Music Department

2010-2011

Ms. Anderson

Handbook for String Ensemble and Orchestra



Overview

Expectations

Instructional Activities

Instructional Materials

Instructional Materials and Resources

Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Frameworks

Grading Requirements

Events/Concert Dates for 2009-2010

Somerset Friends of Music and Fundraisers

Uniforms and Instrument Storage

Somerset High School 2010-2011

String Ensemble and Orchestra

Ms. Anderson

Overview

The Somerset High School String Ensemble and Orchestra are performing ensembles that perform orchestra music from a variety of periods and styles. The goal of the class is to develop individual playing and ensemble skills and musical knowledge through performance. The SHS String Ensemble meets on days B & F, and the Orchestra meets on days D, G, and H during S block. Students must have auditioned and selected for the String Ensemble in order to participate in that group. The Orchestra includes all string players. Students who are in other musical organizations (i.e. Concert choir, Concert Band) should follow their schedule they have been given by the guidance department, unless the directors make a change. Wind and percussion players will be added into the orchestra during the year to create a Symphonic Orchestra. These students will be selected from Symphonic Winds.

Expectations and goals

- (1) Come to school prepared and ready to work (Music, Instrument, and Pencil)
- (4) Self-evaluate and reflect on their learning using a variety of methods
- (5) Explore, develop, and express their creativity
- (6) Solve problems by reasoning critically and creatively
- (Social Expectation 1) Demonstrate pride and respect for themselves and others
- (Social Expectation 2) Accept responsibility for their behavior and actions as outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook
- Have a positive attitude – try your best all the time!

Instructional Activities

1. Class Rehearsals
2. Performances (Class, School, Festival and Community)
3. Music Vocabulary and Music Theory Study (this will include: Rhythmic Counting, oral and written, Singing of Pitch Names and Rhythms)
4. Evaluation of Individual/Group performances
5. Sight reading music of a difficulty of grades 2 and up
6. Listening to and analyzing orchestral music of different periods

Instructional Materials and Resources

1. String and full orchestra music of a grade level of 2.5 – 6, including music of different periods and styles. We will be working on music from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary, Pop, and Broadway.
2. SmartMusic Practice and Assessment Software and Microphone; Tape recorders
3. Individual Instruments, Music Stands & Suitable Chairs
4. Handouts re: Music history

5. Various Hand-outs including Scales, Warm-up Exercises & worksheets provided by teacher
6. Audio recordings of literature discussed in class.

The Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework

The entire Somerset Public Schools Music Curriculum Guide is aligned with **The Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework: October 1999**. The Swansea Public Schools Music Curriculum Guides include both Curriculum Outlines and in-depth Curriculum Alignments with the Music Strands and Standards outlined in The Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework. The Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework is divided into two Strands: 1. **The Arts Discipline: Music** (*Students learn about and use the symbolic language of music*) and 2. **Connections: History, Criticism, and Links to Other Disciplines** (*Students learn about the history and criticism of music, its role in the community, and its links to other disciplines*). These standards are organized into five **PreK-12 Music Learning Standards** and five **PreK-12 Connections Learning Standards**. PreK-12 Music Learning Standards include: Standard 1: *Singing*, Standard 2: *Reading and Notation*, Standard 3: *Playing Instruments*, Standard 4: *Improvisation and Composition* and Standard 5: *Critical Response*. PreK-12 Connections Learning Standards include: Standard 6: *Purposes and Meanings in the Arts*, Standard 7: *Roles of Artists in Communities*, Standard 8: *Concepts of Style, Stylistic Influence, and Stylistic Change*, Standard 9: *Inventions, Technologies, and the Arts* and Standard 10: *Interdisciplinary Connections*. All music related sections of **The Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework** are included in this curriculum guide for reference purposes.

Assessment and Grading

Grading Requirements

Grading will be done each quarter as follows:

String Ensemble and Orchestra members will be graded on musical progress, cooperation, attitude and attendance. Grading is scored quarterly as follows:

- **40% Tests/Assignments:**

Students will have to perform scales, exercises and their individual parts for the Director at the end of each quarter to track progress as well as perform periodic smaller practice assignments during the semester. These performances are to be recorded onto SmartMusic computer software and emailed to the director. Students must either purchase SmartMusic Software from MakeMusic, Inc. by going to <https://www.smartmusic.com/order/order.aspx> and purchasing a yearly subscription for \$30 or use the designated in the practice rooms and chorus room. PLEASE NOTE: That these rooms are only available during certain times, not always quiet and for many of those “last-minute” testers, this may not be the most suitable way to record; however it is available. Please read the SmartMusic Information page at the end of this packet for more information and ordering options! There will also be periodic assignments and quizzes that the students must return in a timely manner.

- **40% Participation:**

Class participation and cooperation is crucial for the Orchestra/String Ensemble student to learn his/her music. This is why individual participation is so important and weighed so heavily in the grading process. In-class evaluations are conducted by the director on a daily basis to determine the level of each student’s participation and cooperation. Characteristics of an A in this category include: being on time for class, having your

instrument and music for every rehearsal, effort, being respectful of others and the director, and playing your music to the best of your ability.

- **20% Attendance:**

Attendance at both in-school rehearsals and after-school rehearsals and performances is crucial for the success of both the individual student and the ensemble. As performing ensembles, a major focus of these classes is the actual performance. Therefore, concert attendance is required. An excused absence will be accepted under the following conditions:

- **Written notice from a parent or guardian received 2 weeks prior to the event**
- Student illness with parental notification (Please note that I may not know if your child is absent from school on the day of the concert. I would be helpful if a parent calls me or emails me to let me know).
- Death in the family with parental notification
- Family emergency with parental notification

***Student jobs are not an acceptable excuse for missing a concert and verbal notification is not an acceptable form of absence notification. Please note the concert dates on your calendar NOW. If there are any additions or change to the dates indicated, I will notify you well in advance of the event.**

EVENTS/CONCERT DATES 2009 – 2010

- SEPT. 25 – BUMPER STICKER DRIVE 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. (see below)
- OCT. 7 – **STRING ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE AT BALL.** APPROXIMATE TIME 6 P.M. ALL STRING ENSEMBLE STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE AT THIS ENTIRE EVENT, AND OTHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. TICKET PRICES: \$17 for students, \$24 for adults. Concert Dress – dress up! (PARENTS ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND)
- OCT. 19TH – CONCERT NIGHT (7:00 P.M.)
- DEC. 12TH – VESPERS CONCERT (2:00 P.M.)
- FEB 16 - STRING FESTIVAL (STRING ENSEMBLE STUDENTS) WITH 4 OTHER HS ORCHESTRAS AT OLIVER AMES HIGH SCHOOL (afternoon and evening)
- MARCH 16 – TOWN-WIDE STRING FESTIVAL (REPORT TIME – 6 P.M./CONCERT – 7 P.M.)
- MARCH 27 - CONCERT WITH THE FALL RIVER SYMPHONY (rehearsals TBD)
- MAY 12 (7 P.M.) - CONCERT NIGHT 7:00 p.m.
- MAY 31ST – MUSIC AWARDS NIGHT AND DINNER (5:30 P.M. DINNER) in hs cafe

OTHER

DISTRICT FESTIVALS – All students who audition for Junior District (gr. 9), and Senior District (gr. 9-12), Allstate or any other school or state-sponsored activity, must be a member in “good standing” of their school music group.

Students should be studying privately to do this – see me for information on pieces, scale requirements, etc.

SENIOR DISTRICT –

Auditions – Saturday, November 20th (Time – TBD)/Festival – Friday and Saturday Jan. 7 & 8, 2011

JUNIOR DISTRICT –

Auditions – Saturday, December 4th (Time – TBD)/Festival – Friday and Saturday Mar. 11 & 12, 2011

ALLSTATE-

Auditions – Saturday, Jan. 29th (Time – TBD)/Festival – Thursday-Saturday March 24-26, 2011.
(Snow dates for all of these festivals is the Sunday after each date)

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

The Somerset Friends of Music is a groups of adults who help the Somerset Music Department achieve their goals. The Friends provides the music department with many things that are not covered by the school budget. For example, the Friends has helped fund buses for field trips, gives scholarships to seniors, provides refreshments for various events, and helps the students who are selected for the district festivals and Allstate pay their registration fees. Without their help, the Somerset Music Department would not be as active as we are. **Please tell your parents to get involved! We have our first general meeting of the year on Wednesday, Sept. 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.** We will be discussing the different events of the year and hosting our annual “Tea” at the end of the meeting.

FUNDRAISERS

The Friends of Music and Music Department sponsors many different fundraisers during the year. The annual Bumper Sticker drive is the main fundraiser specifically for the Friends of Music. The drive will be held on Saturday, Sept. 25th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **All students are expected to help out with this.** We need parent volunteers to help drive for this event. Other fundraisers will include discount cards, candy sale, and raffle cards. For these fundraisers, the students will receive a portion of whatever they sell to go towards the music trip and uniforms.

UNIFORMS

Concert Dress

***These uniforms will be ordered by the music department. All students should have a uniform for the concerts. Students who come to concerts with inappropriate or improper concert dress will not be allowed to perform.**

Gentlemen

***Black dress pants**

***Uniform Tuxedo shirt and Tie**

Black dress shoes (no sneakers)

Black socks

Ladies

***Long black dress**

Black dress shoes (no open toes)

INSTRUMENT STORAGE AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS

All student-owned instruments/equipment are to be stored in individually assigned Music Department Storage cubbies located in the band room. Each student will be assigned a cubbie based on the size of the instrument they play and will be given a Music department. **No students are allowed to use their own locks.** Lockers are to be used only for daily instrument and music storage, and **should not be used to store personal items and/or books.** Students should not share lockers unless the music teachers direct them to do so. All lockers should be cleaned out prior to vacation. Students are responsible for personal items and things such as cell phones and pocketbooks should not be left lying around the department. **Instruments should be taken home daily for practice.**

WEBSITE and CONTACT INFORMATION

www.somersetmusic.org

The Somerset High School Music Department has a website where you can access information, documents, notices, lists of events, audition information, forms and handbooks, and Friends of Music information. Please visit this website regularly for updated information. Parents and students are encouraged to contact me with any questions or concerns: andersonl@somerset.k12.ma.us or by phone – 508-324-3115 x521.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU AND I EXPECT TO HAVE A MUSICALLY REWARDING YEAR!

PLEASE SIGN THIS FORM AND RETURN TO MS. ANDERSON BY SEPT. 22, 2010

Student name/signature: _____

Parent name/signature: _____

Parent email & phone #: _____

I have received the Somerset High School Orchestra Expectations and I understand them.