

ROSA INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CLASSROOM MUSIC PROGRAM

Course Expectations

Mr. J. Murtha

Dear Parents and Students,

Below is an outline of the music class expectations. Please read the following carefully and sign and return the final page .

**YOUR INSTRUCTOR**

**Mr. Jack Murtha** is a graduate of West Chester University with a degree in trumpet and piano. He is entering his 14<sup>th</sup> year of teaching public schools. Mr. Murtha was awarded Teacher of the Year 1994 in Eastampton, NJ. He has a love for music theory and composition, and has taught these professionally at the Guitar Guild of Palmyra as well as privately. Mr. Murtha is a published arranger for Theodore Presser (Coronet Press) and has composed/recorded music for the NJ State Aquarium and several of its t.v. commercials. He is a professional pianist and organist, and serves as Music Director for his church's Praise Team. Mr. Murtha has directed community theater, as well as toured Europe with the Music Company's production of *Godspell* in 1994. He is happily married and father of two boys, and resides in Cherry Hill.

**TEACHING PHILOSOPHY**

It is the goal of this program to offer each student an opportunity to learn, create and appreciate music. This is achieved through active participation on an instrument and by the use of computer interactive software. We believe that the technical skills, knowledge and discipline students gain through this music program will not only offer the student an enjoyable musical experience, but will also help them to develop holistically as they realize how music provides avenues for expression and self-esteem.

**CLASSROOM PROCEDURES**

Students attend music class for one hour on a six-day rotation. Students are to enter classroom (C 108) in a timely fashion and be seated with a pencil. All students are expected to be extremely respectful of the classroom instruments and equipment that is provided for their instruction. Lessons generally start off with the instructor giving musical examples or demonstrations of the skills necessary to complete the assignment. Time is then given for individual practice or composition. All students are required to use this time wisely since we only see them once every six days. In addition to individual practice time we will be performing together in small and large group ensembles.

### **STANDARDS FOR THIS COURSE:**

CH 8.19

The student sings a varied repertoire of music, alone and with others.

CH 8.20

The student performs on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

CH 8.21

The student improvises melodies, variations and accompaniments.

CH 8.22

The student composes and arranges music within specified guidelines.

CH 8.23

The student reads and notates music.

CH 8.24

The student knows and applies appropriate criteria to music and music performances.

CH 8.25

The student demonstrates an understanding of the relationship between music and history and culture.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE:**

Grading is a combination of classroom participation, performance and written exams. Students attend music class 30 times during the school year (roughly 7 times per marking period). There are generally two assessments, one written and one performance-based, and approximately three classroom assignments per marking period. Due to the nature of the process of learning music, the rubrics generally tend to flow from more written, knowledge-based assessments at the beginning of the year to heavy performance and physical application toward the last half of the year. The specific breakdown is as follows;

40% classroom participation

30% written work and tests/ quizzes

30% performance-based evaluations

Reassessment is available for all evaluations. (see school policy)

### **LINKS TO MUSIC INFORMATION:**

The music program has an extensive website linked to the Rosa homepage. It is updated weekly and includes any important information and upcoming performances. You may also contact us through this site. You can reach this site at [www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/rims](http://www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/rims), then click on the music program link. The classroom music phone extension is x118 (616-8787).

### **OTHER GOODIES:**

In addition to the classroom instruction, Mr. Walton and Mr. Murtha both teach a variety of other ensembles. These include Recorder Ensemble, Orff Ensemble (xylophones), 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Choruses, Boys Close Harmony (auditioned), Girls Close Harmony (auditioned), and Drama Club. Scheduled vocal lessons are given to all chorus members. Students will be given starting times and audition information during T & D. All are welcomed!

***Rosa International Middle School***  
**Classroom Music**  
**Course Expectation Acknowledgement**  
**And Student Registration Sheet**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ L.C. \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Information:**

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgement:**

I have read the *Classroom Music Course Expectations* and understand that my child will be expected to participate according to this document.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the *Classroom Music Course Expectations* and understand that it is my responsibility to actively participate in the program according to these expectations and to the best of my ability.

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

For survey purposes, please check one or more of the following if interested. More information on these ensembles will be posted, announced, and distributed during T&D.

6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus \_\_\_\_\_ 7<sup>th</sup> grade \_\_\_\_\_ 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus \_\_\_\_\_  
recorder ensemble \_\_\_\_\_ Orff (xylophone) ensemble \_\_\_\_\_ Boys/Girls Close  
harmony (a cappella) \_\_\_\_\_ Drama club \_\_\_\_\_