

Rosa International Middle School

SPECIAL

AREA

HANDBOOK

(Course Expectations and Outlines)



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Physical Education



Technology

General Music



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Meet The Special Area Staff

Mrs. Melissa McNab (Art): Throughout my life, I have always loved anything and everything associated with the visual arts! While attending The College of New Jersey, I began to pursue those interests and develop a broader knowledge of the visual arts. I obtained my bachelors degree in Art Education from the College of New Jersey in May of 1999 and began teaching at Cherry Hill High School East the following fall. In addition to teaching here at Rosa, I am currently pursuing my interests in photography, painting and ceramics by taking various courses offered through Perkins Center for the Arts and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Mrs. Norma Kensinger (P.E.): Mrs. Kensinger grew up in Cherry Hill and is a graduate of CHHS West. She received her bachelor's degree from Douglass College and a master's from Clemson University. Mrs. Kensinger has been teaching for 34 years. In 2003 she was named New Jersey's Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Chai Chuenmark (P.E.): Mr. Chuenmark was born in Thailand and grew up in Mt. Laurel. He graduated from Lenape HS and received his bachelor's degree from Glassboro State College. Mr. Chuenmark is in his 13th year of teaching.

Ms. Robyn Housman (P.E.): Ms. Housman grew up in Brick, NJ. She graduated from Monsignor Donovan HS and received her bachelor's from Rowan University. Ms. Housman is in her 5th year of teaching.

Mr. Chris Convery (P.E.): Mr. Convery grew up in Washington Twp., NJ and graduated from Washington Township High School. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and is in his 7th year of teaching.

Mr. Dan Feeley (Technology): Mr. Feeley grew up in Cinnaminson, NJ, graduating from Cinnaminson High School, and completed his undergraduate studies at Rutgers University. He is currently enrolled in a master's program at Wilmington College. Mr. Feeley is in his 7th year of teaching technology at Rosa.

Mr. Jack Murtha (General Music): Mr. Murtha is a graduate of West Chester University with a B.S. degree in trumpet and piano. He has been teaching public school for more than 15 years, during which he has presented at the NJ teachers convention and has received the Governor's 'Teacher of the Year' Award. He has a love for music theory and composition, and has taught 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, including several of its t.v. commercials. He is a professional pianist and organist, and has served over 12 years as musical 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* . He is happily married, the father of two boys, and resides in Cherry Hill.

Mrs. Sue Mark (Instrumental Music): Mrs. Mark has been teaching music for more than 18 years (now you know how OLD I am) and finds that each year proves more exciting than the last. She graduated magna cum laude from West Chester University (Pa.) with a B.S. in Music Education – double major in voice and flute with a minor in piano. She also holds a New Jersey Elementary School Teacher certificate. Mrs. Mark has received the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award, has been named to the *Who's Who Among Teachers* and *Among American Woman* and is an active member of NJMEA, having presented workshops at state conventions and guest conducted the All South Jersey Junior High Band. She currently lives with her two sons and husband, Jim, who also happens to be the director of instrumental music at C.H.H.S. West.

Mr. Bud Walton (Vocal Music): Mr. Walton holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts (now University of the Arts) where he majored in trumpet and voice. Upon graduation, Mr. Walton toured the U.S. and Canada performing with many popular recording and show groups, as well as establishing his own show group called "Now and Then." After performing for a few years on the road, he returned home to continue studies in music education at Glassboro State College and received private instruction from tenor, Paul Spencer Adkins. At this time Mr. Walton joined the faculty of the N.J. School of Music where he taught trumpet and voice. In 1979 he moved to the Atlantic City area where he and his wife founded the Ventnor School of Music. Mr. Walton was co-director of the school and taught voice and trumpet. While in Atlantic City he performed in several casino house orchestras and also performed in many of the lounges with his own group called the "Buddy Walton Orchestra." Mr. Walton was a member of the Ocean City Pops Orchestra and several local chamber ensembles. He is currently in his eighth year of teaching in the Cherry Hill School District and has taught privately for over twenty-five years.

How To Contact Us

Mr. Chai Chuenmark 616-8787, ext. 120
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Mrs. Melissa McNab 616-8787, ext. 129
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Mr. Jack Murtha 616-8787, ext. 118
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Mr. Bud Walton 616-8787, ext. 118
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Also available on the Rosa Home Page:

- Music Web Site
- Physical Education Web Site
- Technology Web Site

ART



Art Course Expectations

Philosophy of learning:

Many students ask, " Why do I *need* art?" Through taking art and design, students will begin to realize that art is not just something to please the eye. Exploring art helps students to appreciate the design and beauty that is a part of our daily lives, in nature and in our man -made environment. Students will come to the realization that art has an essential function in every facet of life. Using the holistic approach of the International Baccalaureate Curriculum, students will learn that art can be connected to everything around them and that good solutions often draw upon insights one has acquired from many sources. Bridges will be built between school and the rest of the world as the students discover how skills and content in art relate to history, current events, and everyday life experiences. Students will not only learn that art involves a variety of problem solving skills, processes and cultures, but also reinforces their listening and communication skills.

Classroom Procedures and Expectations:

There are many procedures and expectations for Art and Design Students. The following procedures and expectations are meant to help all students achieve and exceed the goals and standards that have been set for Art & Design.

- Treat yourself, your classmates, and materials with respect at all times
- Manage your time well and ask for help before problems arise
- Stay on task and avoid any interruptions or distractions during class time
- Each Student is responsible to do their *own* work
- Listen to the instructions given by the Teacher and follow them carefully
- Listen carefully at all times while your classmates are asking and/or answering questions

- You are required to *always* bring a pencil to art class (all other materials will be supplied)
- Voice levels should be maintained at moderate levels throughout class time
- Your table and surrounding area need to be cleaned before you are dismissed from the art room
- Permission and a pass are necessary when you need to leave the classroom
- You are required to be on time for class

Grading Policy:

Student's grades will not be based solely on artistic ability. Students will be assessed individually according to their participation, effort, following directions, as well as their level of achievement in reaching set standards. Projects, workbook reflections, design exercises and rubrics will also aide in evaluating students.

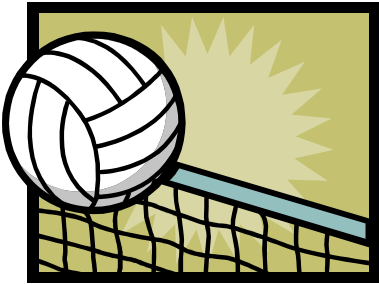
In the event that a Student does not meet the standard, he or she may reassess. The Student may ask or be asked to complete further assignments or continue practicing skills associated with a given project. The Student is expected to show initiative, effort, and a responsible attitude. All assessments and reassessments will be considered as the Student's work and will be evaluated throughout the marking period.

Extra Items:

One of the things we focus on in the art room is environment. In particular, we focus on reusing a variety of materials that might normally be recycled or thrown out at home. If you have any of the following materials at home and would like to donate them to the art room, we would gladly take them off of your hands and use them to create beautiful masterpieces!!!!

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Styrofoam trays
- Egg cartons
- Fabric scraps
- Wire hangers

Physical Education



COURSE EXPECTATIONS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Philosophy of Teaching:

We believe all students can learn. It is our responsibility to provide the environment, instruction, opportunities & activities for learning to happen. It is your responsibility to work with all your heart, body & mind.

Class Procedures:

You are expected to consistently:

- be prepared (T-shirt, pull-on gym shorts, sweats or swishies, non-marking sneakers & socks), punctual & polite
- be responsible, respectful, resourceful & responsive
- be on task, avoiding inappropriate interruptions & distractions
- complete all assignments/assessments as directed & on time
- follow class management rules & directives
- periodically check the Phys.Ed. webpage
- keep records of your progress & scores
- do aerobic activity outside of class
- seek extra help (arranging to meet with your Phys. Ed. teacher before/after school)

Standards:

It is the goal of Rosa's Phys. Ed. department that each student will:

- demonstrate an understanding of health-enhancing behaviors
- set health goals, solve health-related problems & resolve conflicts
- understand & apply movement concepts & skills that foster participation in physical activities throughout life
- understand & apply Health-Related Fitness concepts

Principles of Learning:

Class is organized & designed so that every student can achieve or exceed the standards. Your effort plus our instruction will result in your progress & achievement. There will be fair & authentic evaluations. Monitoring heart rates will be used frequently to judge your effort. You will participate in the grading process through frequent self-assessments. You will play an active role in decision-making, lesson progression, problem-solving & strategy development. Furthermore, you will actively use Health-Related Fitness concepts outside of class as you document your fitness activities. As a result you will manage your own personal fitness progress as well as skill development.

Grading:

Phys. Ed. is an activity class in which you learn by doing. Maximum effort results in maximum grades; minimum effort results in minimum grades. Effort will be assessed daily in 5 categories:

- preparation & promptness (phys. ed. attire & on time)
- warm-ups – actively involved in the designated tasks, elevating your heart rate
- attitude – cooperation, following directions, helping others, helping with equipment, being positive & respectful
- behavior – displaying appropriate community behavior

- participation – working hard in the class activities, practicing, improving, making best use of class time

Therefore, you can earn 5 points in each class, one point per category. There are 20 class days per marking period resulting in 100 points. Homework also counts. Monthly Activity Logs are required. Each is worth 10 points. Other assignments will be worth 5-10 points depending on the length. Improvement in fitness scores or maintaining healthy scores is worth up to 10 points per marking period. Tests of aerobic capacity will be conducted quarterly to determine your level. In short, you can earn 100 points per marking period for maximum participation in class activities, 20-30 points per marking period for Activity Logs & other homework and 10 points per marking period for improving fitness (Totaling 130-140 points.) Rubrics will be provided so you clearly understand how to complete work. All assignments must be turned in by the stated due date. Late work will be penalized a full grade for each day late.

During the 2nd & 3rd marking periods we will rotate out of the gym & go to classrooms. You will be required to keep a “Health/Phys. Ed. Folder”. There will be more information about this later in the year.

Reassessment:

Students must be responsible & demonstrate initiative & effort. Students may re-submit work after receiving extra help or re-studying. Further opportunities to demonstrate proficiency will always be provided since our fitness teaching spirals & students will continually be demonstrating & applying these concepts. Monthly Activity Logs/Fitness Plans are perfect re-assessment tools. Resubmitted work or reassessments must be done within one week of the initial assessment. All initial work must be on time to avoid penalty.

Conclusion:

Physical Education plays a unique role at Rosa. The latest research says that physical activity helps students learn, makes them feel better & reduces stress. Furthermore, lifetime fitness is a factor in reducing risks of cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and even some types of cancer. Our goal is to get our students moving.

Our curriculum emphasizes knowledge & attitudes as much as motor skills. We work at improving fitness, developing social skills & offering opportunities for self-assessment & peer encouragement. We want Rosa students exhibiting active life-styles, developing the knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviors & confidence to adopt & maintain fitness for life.

Technology



Course Expectations for Technology

Course Outline:

The Middle Years Technology program is a progressive curriculum designed to teach the students to use the technology available as a tool to enhance coursework across the curriculum. The lessons are modeled through the lenses and incorporation of the Areas of Interaction along with international, national, state, and Cherry Hill Standards. Proficiency is demonstrated by using a multitude of applications and equipment. More specifically, the students will become proficient with tools such as the Microsoft Office Suite, digital cameras, and basic networking. Along with the skills mentioned above the students will learn proper use of the technology including web searching skills and use of multiple Web Browsers.

Philosophy of Teaching:

We believe that all students can succeed in the MYP Technology Program and we will make every effort possible to ensure the students' success.

Classroom Procedures:

In this classroom there are basic expectations that will foster success some of these expectations are listed below:

- Students should be prepared for class every day. This includes bringing a writing utensil, paper or notebook, along with any other required material for that day.
- All students will demonstrate the knowledge that computer use is a privilege and all school and district rules must be followed.
- Throughout class students are to stay on task and avoid inappropriate interruptions or distractions (especially during instruction time).

Absences and Assignments:

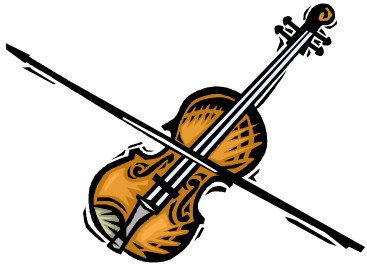
Our time with the students is limited to a six day rotation and we see entire student body thus, every class period of tech is vital. With this in mind assignments are given out regularly and students are expected to maintain the existing due dates. If class is missed because of excused or unexcused sickness, music lessons, lateness to school or any reason not mentioned; it is the students' responsibility to get and complete work in a timely fashion.

Rules:

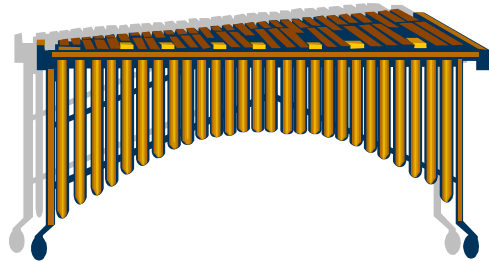
We expect that students will abide by all rules established by the school and their Learning Communities including but not limited to: timeliness to class and appropriate behavior to self and others in class.

The Student's Grade in Technology:

Your technology grade is based on participation and satisfactory completion of all assignments and projects in the given timeframe. Multiple forms of assessment will be present throughout the course.



Music



CLASSROOM MUSIC COURSE EXPECTATIONS

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 55 minutes 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. 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.

CH8.22 The student composes and arranges music within specific guidelines.

CH 8.23 The student reads and notates music

CH 8.24 The student knows and applies appropriate criteria to music and music performance.

CH 8.25 The student demonstrates an understanding of the relationship between music, 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, 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. Murtha teaches a variety of after school ensembles. These include recorder, tone chimes, and Orff (xylophones) ensemble. All students are welcome to join these groups and there are no cuts. Mr. Murtha also directs the Drama club. In addition to silent films and student movies, the club has performed many Spring musicals from the Broadway Jr. collection including Guys and Dolls, Music Man, Honk, Once on This Island, and Fiddler on the Roof.

Starting times for these ensembles will be announced during the morning homeroom time.

Instrumental Music

Course Expectations and Guidelines

Welcome Back! I hope you all had a restful summer and are looking forward to the new school year as much as I am. It is always nice to come back after a long break to begin another exciting new adventure.

The instrumental music program at Rosa has a lot to offer those who are interested in participating; and, as a result, I would like to get it started as soon as possible. We have concerts to prepare for, performances to attend to and a lot of musical growth to achieve. So...

Below is an outline of the Instrumental Music Course Expectations. I ask that you read this carefully with your child and be sure to complete the attached forms in order that we may get you started in this exciting venture.

PROGRAM GOALS AND PHILOSOPHY:

It is the goal of this program to offer as many opportunities to every student with an interest in the instrumental program. Whether you are a seasoned musician or just getting started, Rosa has an instrumental group to fit your needs.

Because everyone has different ideas and tastes, we will try to offer a variety of performance venues to fit the vast variety of personalities. From orchestra, to concert band, to jazz band and small-group ensembles, no one will be left out of an opportunity to explore his/her talents.

I believe that anyone who wishes to put forth the effort to be involved in a musical group is deserving of the best educational experience possible. Not everyone is a musical prodigy. Some people take their musical studies very seriously while others choose to participate simply because they enjoy it or for the sheer camaraderie of being involved in a performing group. Because I understand and can appreciate such diverse feelings, it is my intention to tailor the program to fit the needs of everyone involved.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

Orchestra and band are scheduled classes held once a week during the school day. In addition to these performing ensembles, all students will receive semi-private instruction on their instrument for a minimum of one-half hour a week. These lessons will be scheduled during the school day and are essential in order that students can develop the skills necessary to participate in the performing ensembles.

Because these lessons take place during other instruction, it is necessary to rotate times (but not days) to avoid missing the same subjects weekly. Students will receive lesson schedules for the entire academic year. As it stands now, rotating lessons require missing the same class time once every seven weeks – or, in most cases, 40 minutes out of 2100 minutes of instruction. Since there is a great deal of flexibility incorporated into the program, I ask that all students make every effort possible to attend these lessons. Anyone unable to do so due to tests or important projects will be given the opportunity to reschedule that lesson provided he/she discusses this conflict in advance, whenever possible.

Due to time constraints during the regular school day, occasional mandatory rehearsals must be held after school. Each student must make every effort to attend these rehearsals, as band/orchestra is only complete when every “teammate” is present. Students will be notified of these rehearsals at least one month in advance so arrangements can be made to attend and a late bus is available for those who wish to take advantage of it.

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled concerts and performances. These performances are an integral part of the overall musical experience and the main focus of most band/orchestra rehearsals.

STANDARDS FOR THIS COURSE:

It is my goal that every student meets or exceeds the standards and benchmarks set forth in the "Music Education Standards for Cherry Hill Public Schools." In general you will perform a variety of repertoire alone and with others; improvise melodies and variations; read and notate music; know and apply appropriate criteria to music and music performance; demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between music and music history; understand and demonstrate the correct physical control of your instrument; listen to, respond to and analyze music; and draw parallels between and among music, other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

In addition to the above, you will be expected to be prepared for each lesson and ensemble rehearsal by practicing the skills taught in prior classes. It will be your responsibility to organize your time and be sure to attend all scheduled lessons and rehearsals. If you are unable to do so, you must contact me as soon as possible in order to make up the time you will be missing. As was stated earlier, attendance at concerts and performances is mandatory and an important part in achieving the standards.

You will discover that being a part of a music performance program involves time management skills, a strong work ethic, and the ability to work cooperatively with your peers in an effort to achieve the same goals and outcomes. Participating in such a program will ultimately help you learn good problem-solving skills, responsible behavior, and leave you with a great sense of accomplishment.

My responsibility to you and the program is to ensure that you are given every opportunity to succeed. I will always present important information in a timely manner. (Information and upcoming events will be posted both inside and outside the classroom.) I will make every effort to present a diverse repertoire in order to meet the needs of every student and make their instrumental experience as enjoyable as possible. I will present a program that will be both challenging and enriching. I will also give every student ample opportunities to succeed with advance notice of testing, fair evaluations, re-testing, and providing you with the instruction necessary to meet or exceed the standards. Whenever possible, I will make every effort to meet your scheduling needs and be available for additional help in order that we may meet my goal of achieving beyond the standards.

GRADING PROCEDURE:

All students will be graded for their participation in the instrumental program. Grades are based on a 100 point system which includes averaging attendance at BOTH rehearsals and lessons, evaluation of each lesson based on preparedness and participation, rubric scoring on advanced-notice performance and written tests, extra credit for required after school rehearsal attendance, and concert attendance. Should you need to reschedule a lesson or test due to absence or conflict, it must be done as soon as possible. Re-assessment or re-testing is always an option and will be done at the discretion of the director based on the evaluation and subsequent discussion between the student and teacher.

If you are unable to attend a graded performance (Winter and Spring Concerts) due to unavoidable circumstances and have made every effort to resolve the conflict, you must notify me immediately. You will be given the opportunity to make up the performance grade by either presenting a two-page report (topic given by teacher) or two-page written evaluation of a taped performance of the concert missed (when available) within two weeks of the performance. As with any test situation, these alternatives are the only way to make up for the missed evaluation.

Although after school rehearsal attendance is REQUIRED, it will not be included as a penalty in the actual grading process should you have to miss occasionally. However, it WILL be used as extra credit and can be very helpful to those whose grades may be waning due to lack of attendance during the school day. If you are involved in after school sports, you are expected to attend rehearsals over practices since rehearsals occur less frequently. You are excused from rehearsals for games only. It is important to know that the coaches and I will make every effort to accommodate any student who wishes to do both music and other after school activities.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

The music program has an extensive web site linked to the Rosa Home Page. It is updated weekly and includes any important information and upcoming performances. You may also contact us through this site. If you are uncertain of a specific date or event, this is a great resource. And should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 616-8787, ext.

121 or email at smark@chclc.org. You can reach our web site at www.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/rims then click on the Music Program link under the student drop-down box. Or you can bookmark us at <http://rosamusicprogram.homestead.com/rosamusicprogram.html>.

IN CLOSING:

Your musical experience at Rosa should be both enjoyable and fulfilling. It is my hope that every child leaves here with positive musical growth and many good memories. I am looking forward to working with you all and having another wonderful year.

In order to get started, please be sure to complete the sign up process on the music web page, SIGN THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM found on the web site, and return it to Mrs. Mark by the date indicated. The information included in this form will be used for lesson and ensemble placement, setting up a grading database and to contact you, should the need arise. By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the information provided in *The Instrumental Music Course Outline*. And now you are ready to take part in an enriching experience.

VOCAL MUSIC COURSE EXPECTATIONS

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

It is the goal of this program to offer each student an opportunity to sing a varied repertoire of music as well as build the foundation of proper breathing and vocal techniques used in singing. This is achieved through active participation in **Chorus Rehearsal** and **Choral Workshop** class. I believe that the technical skills, musical knowledge and discipline students gain through this program will not only offer them an enjoyable musical experience, but will also help them gain the confidence necessary to achieve success in other areas of their life.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES:

Chorus Rehearsal is held once a week during advisory period. Students must first report to their advisor for attendance and then promptly report to the gym for chorus rehearsal. As a member of chorus, students will also be required to attend the **Choral Workshop** class. This class will take the place of the General music class and will meet in room A-104 once every six days. Students are to enter class in a timely fashion with their music folder and 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 vocal warm-ups or demonstrations of the skills necessary to complete that day's assignment. Time will also be spent preparing individual parts for the required concert performances. (Winter Concert in January and Spring Concert in May – see school calendar for exact dates and please plan accordingly).

ASSESSMENT:

- Student grades will be determined from:
- Classroom and Rehearsal Participation
 - Worksheets and Tests
 - Concert Participation

*Students will be given an opportunity for reassessment if needed. (see school policy)

OTHER INFORMATION:

All of this information and more can be found on the music web site found in the student drop-down box on the Rosa home page.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Please sign and return the bottom portion of *this sheet only* to your advisor as soon as possible. This booklet should be kept available for reference.

* * * * *

I have received the Special Area Handbook and understand the course expectations outlined herein.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____