



Hope Township School



Handbell Choir Handbook 2008-2009

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your sincere interest in your child's study of music! Your encouragement is most important in your child's involvement in the wonderful world of music. Please help your child to get the most out of his or her handbell experience by encouraging home practice and performances as well as attending concerts.

It is my sincerest hope that no financial, transportation, or any other difficulty will keep any child from participating in Hope Township handbell activities. Please let me know if there are any problems we can work through together for your child's success. This Handbook will provide all the necessary information on participation in handbell activities and serve as a reference throughout the year. Please read through the handbook carefully and sign the detachable contract form at the end of the handbook.

Please return the contract by September 22nd. Thank you!



Handbell Choir is a performing ensemble offered to students in grades seven and eight interested in performing at school concerts and community events.

All rehearsals are held once a week during school on a rotating, pull-out schedule.

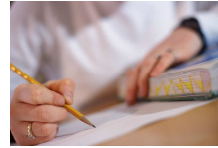


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Membership:

1. Handbell Choir is open to all students in grade seven and eight.
2. **Rehearsals are mandatory.** If a rehearsal needs to be missed due to an unavoidable situation you must see Ms. Pasculli no later than the morning of the handbell rehearsal unless it is an emergency. In that case, a note must be submitted by the next rehearsal. All students must attend rehearsal if they are in the school building even if the student is not feeling well or has a test.
3. Students are responsible for the class work they missed.
4. Students are expected to respect the handbells through proper use and care.
5. **Reasons for dismissal from Handbell Choir: 3 strike system**
 Strikes may include but are not limited to: disrupting rehearsal, missing lessons without notifying the director as described in #2, or by disrespecting the director, another member, or school property. Parents and guardians will be notified if any strike occurs.

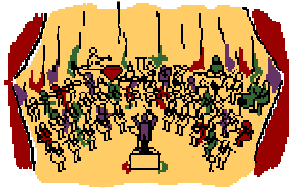
The year ahead in Handbell Choir:

Handbell Choir will meet as a group every week during school on a rotating, pull-out schedule. Students will experience playing as an ensemble in preparation for the Winter and Spring Concerts. Rehearsals will focus on the required techniques of playing handbells such as posture and position, playing techniques, and reading music. Ensemble performance opportunities may also include the following: school assemblies, community performances (grandparent's day, tree lighting, craft market), Shop-Rite Holiday Performance, eighth grade graduation (grade seven).

Important Dates to Remember:

Winter Concert December 10th

Spring Concert April 22nd



Concert Dress:

For concert performances students should dress in black or dark blue and white.

Girls: black skirts, knee, calf or ankle length, or black slacks, a white blouse, and black shoes (no more than 1 inch heel and must have heel support, no flip-flops)

Boys: black or dark blue slacks, a white dress shirt, and black shoes with black socks

Remember that clothing should mirror the school dress code.

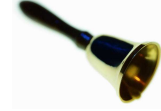
Equipment:

Hope School owns three octaves of Handbells. These Instruments are not allowed to leave school property but practice times can be scheduled for recess or after school use.

Expectations of Students:

In order for our sessions to be successful and productive toward developing musicianship and achieving our musical goals, students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines before, during, and after class.

- Enter the music room in a quiet and orderly way.
- Be on time to rehearsal and seated with all necessary materials (handbell binder and a pencil) by 2 minutes after the bell.
- Follow instructions the first time they are given.
- Do not talk during rehearsal; raise your hand if you have a question.
- Use proper rehearsal etiquette. Positively contribute to the rehearsal by coming to each rehearsal prepared and ready to make music.
- Be courteous, respectful, and cordial to fellow students, teachers, and administrators. Be respectful of the school's and other students' property
- Leave the room when dismissed by the teacher, not the bell, and after everything has been put away and cleaned up.



Grading:

(For in-class use only: Grades will be used to help determine soloists, ensemble trip participation, future membership, etc.)

Participation = 40%

- Being on time to rehearsals
- Being prepared
- Using appropriate playing technique; playing when time to play; being attentive to the music.
- rehearsal etiquette

Concert Attendance = 40%

- Concert attendance is MANDATORY. If a concert is missed due to an unavoidable situation you must have a note delivered to the conductor at least two weeks ahead of time unless it is an emergency. In that case, a note must be submitted by the next handbell rehearsal. AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE IS EQUAL TO A ZERO ON AN EXAM.

In-class playing quizzes = 10%

- In-Class playing quizzes will occur at least once each quarter. These quizzes will happen in a small group setting (4-8 people) on the music we rehearse each rehearsal.

In-class written quizzes = 10%

- Study guides will be provided.



Dear Students,

Welcome to an exciting year in Handbell Choir! I hope you find handbells to be fun, challenging, and rewarding! In Handbell Choir you will become a better musician on every level from technically to intellectually through our varied repertoire of music and technical practice. Every student can be successful in handbells if you work hard during rehearsal and respect the conductor as well as your fellow handbell members. Our Handbell Choir becomes an extended family because of the bond that occurs among people who make music together so I welcome you to the family! Let's have a great year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Pasculli

Hope Township School

2008-2009 Handbell Choir Participation Contract



Please return the contract to Ms. Pasculli by September 22nd.

Student's Last Name _____
(Please Print)

Student's First Name _____
(Please Print)

We have received and read the information on the previous pages of the Hope Township Handbell Choir Handbook. We agree to abide by the policies and to meet all expectations to the best of our ability.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Telephone _____

Email Address _____
(Parent's Email Address Only)

Father's Name _____

Father's Daytime Telephone _____

Mother's Name _____

Mother's Daytime Telephone _____

