

# 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MUSIC CLASS AT THE NOCK

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Singing isn't just a means of making music...it connects us with the conditions of being human

*...Bruce Springsteen*

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Sixth Grade Music Class! We are very excited to present this opportunity to help Sixth Graders develop fundamental music skills and possibly find a new talent and activity they enjoy. The class curriculum involved exploration of keyboarding, ukulele, music notation/theory, singing. Class activities range from learning songs from a variety of musical styles and cultures, giving a Spring concert performance, playing musical games, and building a positive and inclusive classroom community. We are thrilled to work with the students and for the opportunity to inspire them to view playing, listening to, and singing music as an activity that can equally be enjoyed and developed by all.

## CLASS MISSION

IT IS THE MISSION OF THE SIXTH GRADE MUSIC CLASS TO HEIGHTEN STUDENTS' SELF CONFIDENCE, MUSICAL APPRECIATION, VOCAL ABILITY, AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH A SUPPORTIVE AND INCLUSIVE CHORAL PROGRAM. THE COURSE ALSO SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS IN THE ENJOYMENT OF SINGING AND TO DEVELOP FUNDAMENTAL MUSICAL SKILLS.

## POSITIVE RESPECTFUL ATTITUDE

This is a class of musical enjoyment and basic skill building.

Everyone learns at different speeds and in different ways. We must also be sure to use respectful language and help those in need while allowing everyone the space they need to enjoy the activities



## A PATIENT & PROBLEM SOLVING MIND

Life is about the solutions we create to the challenges we meet. Positive teamwork will be the best tool to complete projects, solve problems, and grow from the challenges we will face as a class

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

Each of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus classes consist of between 45 and 60 students. Consequently, while insuring all students receive identical curricula, to make the class sizes more manageable and ensure the education and enjoyment of all students, the teachers will often split the classes in two groups and work on various material. Throughout the year the class will come together as one large group to pursue various compositions/performance projects.

## ~GRADING & PERFORMANCES~

~EFFORT: 75% of life is showing up, the rest is what you make of it. You are only guaranteed failure at something if you never try. We ask that every student put forth an honest effort, participate at their comfort level, and together we can have fun and most likely get better at anything we do!

~RESPECT: This is everything, we cannot have fun or be productive if we don't show ourselves, each other, and the materials due respect. This could be as simple as a compliment for someone trying their best, offering assistance to someone struggling, or simply not saying anything if you can't come up with something positive. If we always put our mind before our mouth and remember how words feel coming at us, we will ensure everyone has an enjoyable time and we get the most of this experience.

~CONCERT PERFORMANCES (please read carefully): A significant part of every ensemble in the performing arts department is the seasonal concert we perform. It is our chance to share our accomplishments and fun with our family, friends, and community.

Our Spring Concert is scheduled as part of the Newburyport District Performing Arts Festival on **Saturday June 8th**. As this is a day-long event specific performance times will be forthcoming and students are not required to stay for the duration of the festival. Please be advised that attendance and participation at these concerts is a **required** part of the grading policy of this course. Attendance exceptions will only be made for health and family emergencies. Once parental notice has been submitted to the teacher a makeup assignment will be given and is due one week from the date of the concert. Absence from the concert without proper notification will result in students' grade being lowered by **one full letter**.

## ~NEWBURYPORT DISTRICT PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

We are in the early stages of producing a district wide (K-12) concert festival to be held downtown at the Waterfront Park. This extravaganza will feature a day of performances from the Newburyport Public Schools' performing arts departments; theater, band, chorus, dance, etc. The event is scheduled for **Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. More information will be coming soon, mark your calendars!

## ~STUDENT ENRICHMENT

As the mission above reads "musical appreciation" students are encouraged to seek out singers and bands to further develop their taste and ear for various styles of music. Singing in groups at church, in theaters, or just with friends and family is a great way to improve your skills and find new music.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a fun-filled and enriching year with the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Music Class! Please contact us at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions!

-Brian Nickerson, *co-director*

-Jamie Sokolowski, *-co-director*