I am glad you have chosen to be a part of the Music Department here at Sepulveda Middle School. I look forward to a bright and successful year of music making.

The performing groups are Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. Students in Beginning Strings and Winds will perform in these groups next year. The following pages will give you some guidelines that will help you succeed in the music program.

A list of all concerts and events will be given to you as soon as possible. Please post it somewhere so that you will plan ahead. Finally with a growing music program, donated instruments are always welcome. If you have an instrument that you would like to donate to the school please contact me at the school’s phone number.

Again welcome to the Sepulveda Middle School Music Department. I look forward to an exciting and successful year!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Elliott-Tu
 Instrumental Music

Distance/Hybrid Learning Syllabus

While we are going through this challenging time, the music department will go forward in a way that will give students a rich musical education while giving all students the chance to succeed. The traditional instrumental music classroom is difficult to do under these current circumstances. As a result we will follow this Distance/Hybrid Learning Syllabus while our school community is dealing with the effects of COVID-19. Students will receive a rich standards based music education that will prepare them for learning an instrument when instruction returns to a traditional setting. At that point, instruction will go on as is described in the second part of this syllabus, Traditional Classroom Setting Syllabus.

Mode of Instruction

- All classroom agendas, lessons and assignments will be posted in weekly or daily Updates for your class in Schoology.
- Direct instruction will take place in person (if we are on a hybrid plan) or in live virtual lessons through Zoom in Schoology.
- Tutorial videos will be created for some lessons and assignments and will be embedded in assignments posted in Schoology.
- All assignments will be completed or submitted through Schoology. Some assignments will be able to be done within Schoology while others will require completed work to be uploaded into Schoology.

Communication
● The best way to communicate with me will be through messaging in Schoology. My email which can be found above is another way to reach me.

● I will communicate with you using Schoology messaging as well as providing feedback to assignments you turn in. It is your responsibility to check all updates, messages and feedback you receive in a timely manner.

**Grading**

● Your academic grade (A=100-90%, B=89-80%, C=79-70%, D=69-60% or F=59-0%) will be determined by averaging all scores from tests and assignments.

● Your work habits will be based on turning your assignments in on time. An A/B=E, C=S and a D/F=U.

● Your cooperation grade will be on your attendance in class/virtual conferences as well as your behavior. Being on time everyday for class and ready to work=E. Being on time and ready to work most of the time=S. 3 or more unexcused tardies and/or poor behavior=U.

● You are responsible for keeping track of your grade and assignments using Schoology.

**Year at a Glance**

**Fall Semester**

*Weeks 1-10*

Digital Citizenship
- How to use Schoology for lessons, assignments and grades
- Respecting musical intellectual property

Introduction to the Instruments of the Band and Orchestra

Music History
- Gregorian Chant and Baroque Eras

Music Theory
- Reading and performing rhythms
- Reading note names on a staff (Note Trainer Exercises)

*Weeks 11-20*

Music History
- Classical and Romantic Eras

Music Theory- Continued

Soundtrap Project
- Compose a jazz song

**Spring Semester**

*Weeks 1-10*

Music History
- Contemporary, world and jazz

Music Theory-Continued

*Weeks 11-20*

Music History
- Popular styles (rock, R&B, hip hop, country)

Music Theory

Soundtrap Project
- Compose a piece of music in a style of their choice
Traditional Classroom Setting Syllabus

Why Music?

Philosophy of Music Education
- The study of and performance of music allows students to gain a greater understanding of themselves and the world around them. Music is a direct expression of the thoughts, feelings and experiences of human kind and allows students to learn first hand from this expression.
- Music is standards based and is regulated by standards at the national and state level.
- Music is part of the core curriculum according to Goals 2000, educational reforms put into law by the federal government. This puts music on the same level as math, English, science, and history.

Educational Requirements
- Students are required to take a visual or performing art to graduate from high school in LAUSD.
- One full year of a visual or performing art is required to attend a University of California school (UCLA, UC Berkley, UCSD, etc.)

Benefits of Studying Music
- Studies show that students who study music score higher on standardized tests.
- Studies show that students who study music earn higher grades in classes outside of music.
- Studies show that students who study music are more likely to be well adjusted and successful students in all areas of their education.
- Participating in music programs helps students get into and earn scholarships for college.

The Fun Stuff!
- Music students get to go on various field trips throughout the year.
- Music students get to perform in concerts during and after school.

Music Department Policies

Music Room Philosophy
- Being a music student at Sepulveda is an honor and privilege. As such you are expected to maintain a high standard on conduct, ethics, and teamwork in our music room, on campus, and when on school trips. Our music room is only for music students and you are to treat it with respect.

Class Rules
- All music students are required to follow these rules.
  1. Follow all directions given by the teacher or any other authority figure.
  2. Only play when asked to play.
  3. Only play and handle your own instrument.
  4. Respect others and their property, including that of the music department.
  5. No food, drinks, or gum in class.
  6. No running or horseplay in the classroom.

Attendance
- Good attendance is vital to your success since most rehearsing and learning takes place during class. Don’t schedule appointments during class time.
Tardiness
- Students must be in their seats ready to play with their instrument, music, stand, book, and pencil
- Excessive tardies will lead to a lowering of the student’s grade.

Practicing
- Students are required to come to class prepared to play all of their music. Being prepared comes from practicing.

Assignments
- Throughout the year there will be various assignments given. Students are expected to complete and turn in these assignments according to the due dates given. All assignments will be turned in through Schoology.

Tests
- There will be various playing tests given on both technical exercises and the music the group is performing. These tests may be pop quizzes or schedule tests.
- There will be various written tests given on material covered in class.

Notebooks
- Students will be required to keep all finished assignments and tests in a notebook. This can be a separate 3 ring binder for music or a section in the student’s 3 ring binder for all of their classes.
- These notebooks may be graded for organization and completeness throughout the year.

Concerts
- Concerts and festival performances are like a Final Exam for this class because they represent all that the students have learned for that semester. For this reason concert attendance and participation is required. Missing a concert will result in an “F” on the Final Exam and will significantly lower the student’s grade in the class.
- Only extreme cases will be considered by the teacher as an excused absence. (Such cases would be things such as serious illness or death in the immediate family.) If the student has a situation such as this, the student must let the teacher know as soon as possible. All other reasons for missing a concert will not be accepted because they can dealt with if the proper planning is done.
- Concert Band and Advanced Choir will perform in a Fall Concert, Spring Concert and Festival.
- Beginning Winds and Choir will perform in a Spring Concert.

Concert Dress For Advanced Orchestra and Concert Band
- Concert dress is as follows. If any student has any difficulty acquiring the proper attire, please contact the teacher for help.

GIRLS
1. Black shoes (with black socks if you wear socks. Tennis shoes are fine.)
2. Your choice of:
   * Black dress that goes past the knees when sitting down. (No spaghetti straps or strapless dresses.)
   * Black skirt that goes past the knees when sitting down and a black blouse.
   * Black slacks with a black blouse.

BOYS
1. Black shoes with black socks. (Tennis shoes are fine.)
2. Black slacks.
Your choice of:
* Black dress shirt with a long dark tie.
* White dress shirt, black blazer, and long dark tie.

Tee shirts or jeans are not acceptable for girls or boys!

Concert Dress for Beginning Winds and Choir

**GIRLS**
1. Black shoes (with black socks if you wear socks. Tennis shoes are fine.)
2. White blouse. (School polo shirt is fine.)
3. Black slacks or skirt that goes past the knees when sitting down.

**BOYS**
1. Black shoes with black socks (tennis shoes are fine.)
2. White dress shirt. (School polo shirt is fine.)

Tee shirts and jeans are not acceptable for girls or boys!

**Music Shirts**
- Music students will be able to purchase our very own music t-shirt.

**Grading**
- The academic grade (A, B, C, D, or F) will be averaged from all grades from assignments, tests, practice sheets, and concert performances. The students work habits and cooperation may also affect their academic grade. 100-90%=A, 89-80%=B, 79-70%=C, 69-60%=D and 59-0%=F
- The work habits grade (E, S, U) will be averaged from the student’s practicing, turning in assignments on time, being prepared for class with all materials, and the student’s effort.
- The cooperation grade (E, S, U) will be based on the student’s behavior in class and when representing Sepulveda Middle School on group outings.

**Behavior and Attitude**
- Good behavior and a positive attitude are essential for the performing group to be successful. Behavior and attitude are often more important than talent. Poor behavior will not be tolerated.

**Class Content**
- Students are expected to learn the curriculum based on the California State Content Standards. These standards will be discussed in class.

**Costs**
- The use of school instruments is FREE!
- Students are recommended to buy mouthpieces and other supplies. Lists of stores can be obtained from the teacher.

**Private Lessons**
- Paying a teacher outside of school for private lessons is highly recommended. This allows the students to get individual attention to increase their ability on their instrument.
- A list of teachers can be obtained from the music teacher.

**Your Commitment and Responsibility**
The success of the music department as a whole depends on the students. Concert Band, Jazz Band, Advanced Choir and other groups are all made up of students who once took Beginning Winds and Choir at Sepulveda. This means that when you sign up for the beginning groups, we hope that you stay for your 3 years here!

The department has a lot of fun and educational activities you can be a part of. You also have being a part of music in high school and college to look forward to.

Remember it is a privilege to be a music student and you don’t want to miss out!
**Instrument Check Out Policy**

Every student enrolled in Concert Band, Jazz Band and Beginning Winds is welcome to use a school instrument at no cost. Students will use these instruments in class as well as be able to check them out to practice at home. Due to a large amount of students and a limited amount of instruments it is likely that students from different classes will be sharing the same instruments. Sterilizing supplies will be used to clean mouthpieces in these cases. However it is highly recommended for students to buy their own mouthpieces and other supplies.

To ensure that the process of checking out instruments is fair and to keep down repair costs the following policies must be followed. If a student breaks any of the policies, the teacher can revoke the student's instrument check out privileges.

1. Each class will be assigned specific check out days. On your assigned day, you will have 10 minutes after school to check out your instrument. After those 10 minutes, the other students who share your instrument may check it out. Any day that your instrument has not been checked out in 10 minutes, you may check it out.

2. Before leaving the classroom with your instrument, tell the check out person your name, instrument, and instrument number. This will help the department keep track of who checked out the instrument and when.

3. You may only check out your own instrument. If your instrument is taken, you will not be able to check out that day.

4. You may only take your instrument out of its case when you are inside the music room and when you are inside your home. Do not take the instrument out when outdoors or when anywhere else at school. The instrument can get stolen or damaged easily.

5. When transporting your instrument always take good care of it and be aware of it at all times. It can get damaged or stolen if you do not.

6. Your instrument must come back to school the next day BEFORE school. That means before 7:40 AM. The instrument must be at school to be used by the other students that share your instrument. Do not carry your instrument to other classes even if you are late. If you are absent the next day, you must have your parent or carpool bring the instrument to the music room for you. If you forget to bring your instrument back 3 times, you will lose your check out privileges.
Students are required to practice for at least 20 minutes at least 3 times a week in order to earn an E in Work Habits and an A in the Academic Grade. It would be great if students practiced everyday! Practicing for 60 minutes in 1 session does not earn an E. Students may practice at home. The music room will be open during lunch most days for students to practice at school if they cannot practice at home. Check with the teacher for details. It is important that students plan ahead so that they can get all of the practicing time in. Do not wait for the weekend! If your instrument gets checked out by someone else you will be without an instrument so PLAN AHEAD!

Practice sheets will be due every Monday. They will include practicing for the previous week. The student must complete the practice sheet and have their parent sign it. Every day that the sheet is late will result in a lowered grade.

**Year in a Glance**

**Fall Semester**
- Weeks 1-10 Weekly practice logs
- Playing Test
- Weeks 10-20 Weekly practice logs
- Playing Test
- Written Test
- Winter Concert

**Spring Semester**
- Weeks 1-10 Weekly practice logs
- Playing Test
- Weeks 10-20 Weekly Practice logs
- Playing Test
- Written Test
- Open House Performance
- LAUSD Instructional Festival Performance
- Musical Performance
- Spring Concert Performance
- Culmination Performance

**Tear Off Sheet**

Please keep this entire packet for further reference in your notebook. It should help you to be successful in the music department. If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact me at the school. A successful music department needs everyone, teachers, administrators, students, parents, and the community involved. Parent volunteers are always welcome. Volunteers will be needed to help with chaperones on future trips and performances. If you are interested please indicate that on this form. I thank you ahead of time for all of your hard work and commitment to the program. I look forward to a successful and fulfilling year.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Elliott-Tu
Instrumental Music
I have read and understand all of the information stated in the Music Department Information Packet.

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<th>Student Print Name</th>
<th>Student Signature</th>
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<td>Home Phone Number</td>
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_______ Yes I am interested in being a chaperone on future field trips.

_______ Yes I am interested in being a parent volunteer for the Music Department.