

2008 – 2009

MUSIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to Music at Regina Dominican High School

The arts are an integral part of a worthwhile living and a vital means of self-expression. Study in the Fine Arts provides both social and personal development through group efforts in working toward a creative goal. Students achieve qualities that promote the formation of skills such as teamwork, cooperation and dependability, all of which give dignity to the person and stimulate the aesthetic sense.

The Department of Music strives to develop and recognize the rudiments of music, enabling the student to attain greater understanding of musicianship and period style, resulting in an authentic performance. A quality music program has as its cornerstone complete dedication to excellence and accepts no substitutes.

It is department philosophy to teach each student to achieve the best performance that she is able to give. It is hard work and rehearsals will be disciplined with direction and purpose but not without laughter. The sense of pride and accomplishment the student receives from the audience and from herself is what we strive to achieve.

DEPARTMENT GOALS

- 1 Commitment to bring quality music literature to our students.
- 2 Demanding a disciplined, professional approach on a daily basis, in rehearsal, performance and listening. There is a direct link between discipline and the resulting quality.
- 3 Providing a well-rounded musical experience including knowledge of music history and music terminology, sight-reading and exposure to experiences in a variety of musical styles. The goal is to see that the students become fine performers and culturally literate citizens.
- 4 To encourage personal responsibility, good manners, kindness and acceptance of others.
- 5 A drug free lifestyle is encouraged for all students.
- 6 To encourage each student's strengths and talents and empower them to develop leadership skills.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

THE BASIC RULES ARE:

Be In School • Ask Me First • Let Me Know • Tell The Truth
No Gum Allowed Ever!!

- ♪ When the final bell rings, you are to be in your assigned place, with all materials needed for class, and ready to begin.
- ♪ If you **need** to use the bathroom, let me know before the final bell rings or you will be marked **TARDY**. Tardiness will be reflected in your grade.
- ♪ Please put your belongings on the **FLOOR**, against the wall by the music racks (not in the hall). **DO NOT BLOCK** the doors, aisles or music folder racks.
- ♪ **PLEASE NOTE: excessive absences will result in a lowered grade or a loss of credit. Because we have limited homework and tests, performance and daily attendance and participation are VERY important.**
- ♪ **Attitude** -- Demonstrate a positive attitude. Show a willingness to cooperate in every way your talent permits. Demonstrate by your actions that the ensemble's excellence is of prime importance.
- ♪ **Behavior** -- Because talking is disruptive to our group effort, talking in class or lack of cooperation with teacher/choreographer will likewise result in the lowering of the grade and is grounds for detention.
- ♪ **Attendance** (class, rehearsals and performances) -- Be on time to class, in your assigned seat and ready to sing. Attendance at all performances and rehearsals is mandatory. In the case of a family emergency or illness, the director must be notified in writing **BEFORE** the event. In this situation a makeup assignment will be given. Work conflict is not an acceptable reason for absence.
- ♪ **Competition** -- Extra consideration will be given if there is participation in some aspect of solo/ensemble competition during the third quarter. (This is a Level III requirement.)
- ♪ You will be required to complete, sign and return the "Handbook Signoff" that is enclosed. This **MUST** be on file with the music department for participation and performance attire loan.
- ♪ Any Junior or Senior enrolled in a music class may contract for Level III credit at the beginning of the school year.

ORCHESTRA

CLASS SCHEDULE

Orchestra Class will be held mornings at 7:00am – 7:45am Tuesday through Friday. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled if the need arises. A schedule will be announced for Pit Orchestra by mid-September.

PROMPTNESS

You must be in your assigned place, instrument tuned and ready to begin class at 7:00am.

At 7:05 you will be considered tardy and will receive a “music detention”. A “school detention will be issued only if you fail to serve the music detention.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

CHAMBER SINGERS

Black Gown — rented from school (\$35.00)

Black Shoes — flats or low-heeled, closed toe (consider getting character shoes)

Natural shade hose.

Keep hair and bangs away from your face. Confine your hair to one color scheme, preferably your own natural color

REGINA CHORALE

Black Gown — rented from school (\$35.00)

Black character shoe (can be purchased through the music department)

Natural shade hose.

Keep hair and bangs away from your face. Confine your hair to one color scheme, preferably your own natural color

ORCHESTRA

Black knee-length or longer skirt, dress, or dress pants.

White blouse — shoulders must be covered.

Black Shoes — closed toe, flats or low-heeled.

Natural shade hose.

Keep hair and bangs away from your face. Confine your hair to one color scheme, preferably your own natural color

No jewelry during performances.

This includes watches, necklaces, rings and earrings.

NO JEWELRY DURING PERFORMANCES - EVERYONE!

GRADING

Concerts and scheduled performances are the reason you are in this class and are considered tests. There is no opportunity to make-up a concert and a written assignment is not a comparable substitute for a performance therefore, your attendance is **REQUIRED** at the scheduled concerts.

Participation: includes effort, attitude and cooperation, amounts to approximately 400 points per quarter (10/day) or about 40%. If you are frequently absent this will negatively affect your grade.

Performances: and quizzes or tests will also count for about 400 points per quarter or about 40%. This includes in-school assemblies and liturgies. A missed performance will have a dramatic impact on your grade; you may need to consider dropping the class. Each ensemble is a team and needs all its members to perform its best. (Chorale members must be able to be flexible regarding outside performance schedule as they are sometimes called for at short notice.)

Semester and final exams: each 20% of your grade. There are no exemptions from the semester exam for anyone including seniors.

Level 3: The Level 3 projects will be weighted like a semester exam and count for 20% of each quarter's grade.

Concert papers: 10% or 100 points each semester for level 2 and each quarter for level 3 students. The concert paper requires that a student attend a live performance of a high school, college or professional production. Vocal, instrumental and pop/rock performances are acceptable, but only one pop/rock review per year will be accepted as fulfillment of this requirement. This is required for each performance class you are enrolled in.

Donor Appreciation Rehearsals & Performance

The Athletic Director and the other faculty of Regina are aware that this event is important to the school and to your grades. Athletics and Fine Arts will see that you are not penalized for missing practices, games, or meets during "Tech Week" rehearsals. Every effort to accommodate you will be made in regard to the schedule during this week.

If you have a job, you must rearrange your schedule for Donor Appreciation rehearsals and performance. A general rehearsal schedule is included in this booklet. Check for any outside conflicts now so it can be re-arranged. **Your grade will be affected by missed rehearsals.**

HANDBOOK SIGNOFF

STUDENTS

I have read and understand what is expected of me as a member of an ensemble in the music department. I will do my best to abide by the rules and suggestions outlined in the department handbook. I understand the consequences of absences and missed performances and how it will affect my grade.

Student Signature

Date

PARENTS

I support the goals and guidelines of the music department and my daughter's participation in performances in and outside of the school.

My daughter participates in after-school rehearsals and performances and from time to time she will need something for a headache or similar discomfort. If requested, I DO give permission for Mr. Hiatt to make available to her (circle):

Ibuprofen

Tylenol

Cough Drops

Aspirin

Midol

Other _____

Parent Signature

Date