

Southampton Middle School

Dear Parents of Incoming Sixth Graders:

We have begun preparing for your child to enter Southampton Middle School in September 2019. An important part of the scheduling process is for parents and students interested in band, chorus, and orchestra to sign up for one of these ensembles. We ask **everyone** to please respond by using the link below or the QR code to access our sign-up document by April 26th.

Students may only participate in **one** performing group in middle school. Band, chorus, and orchestra classes are taught every other day. Band, chorus, and orchestra students are grouped into classes for physical education, and these classes meet on the alternate days. Students not participating in a performing group have physical education class every day.

A typical two week schedule for a music ensemble student is:

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
Week 1	Performing group	P.E.	Performing group	P.E.	Performing group
Week 2	P.E.	Performing group	P.E.	Performing group	P.E.

The large ensemble (performing group) is a scheduled class, **not** a pull-out-class from core subjects. Students in band and orchestra are also scheduled for one 25-30 minute group lesson each week. The lesson does pull students from other classes, but students do not continually miss the same class for this lesson due to the schedule rotation; students are given the opportunity to make up missed lessons.

Students in performing ensembles receive a grade on their report card for the class and this grade is included in calculations for the honor roll, as are all other grades on the report card. Grades are based on how well the student performs assigned music, lesson and rehearsal preparation, rehearsal decorum, concert decorum and performance, written work, and, in instrumental ensembles, participation at lessons and home practice. Music performance group members are requested to purchase a shirt (or wear a white polo shirt) for performances, and the purchase of lesson books, reeds, oil, strings, sticks, etc. for instrumental students is required. Students who enroll in performing groups are making a commitment to be in the course for the entire school year.

Band and orchestra students are expected to have some basic proficiency on their instrument in order to be a part of a performing group. Some students are "not ready" to perform in band or orchestra at the middle school level. They do not yet have the skills necessary to be successful. If a child did not study an instrument in fourth or fifth grade, he/she will not be scheduled for band or orchestra class. Middle school music teachers rely on the recommendations of elementary music teachers to help make the decision regarding student participation in middle school ensembles. Although students with less than 1 year of experience cannot participate in band or orchestra, taking private lessons outside of school may help students reach the necessary level of proficiency for future years. Participating in chorus is an option for students without the necessary level of proficiency.

We are proud of the fine musical tradition and quality of the program at Southampton Middle School! If you have questions or need additional information, please call the school at: (410) 638-4150 and we will return your call as soon as possible. Thank you for your careful consideration of this important decision in the life of your child.

Sincerely,

Ms. Meredith Katsu & Mr. Stefan Antwarg, Band Directors
Mrs. Elizabeth Fetters, Chorus Director
Ms. Sarah Folus, Orchestra Director

[Please click here to submit your decision about music performing groups at SMS](#)

<http://tinyurl.com/y3rc9qem>

