

# Band and Chorus Handbook

2020-2021

The Garrison School

Garrison, NY

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Hello Garrison Families,

Thank you for your new or continued involvement in band and chorus for your child. This handbook serves as a reference and guide for the elective music programs at the Garrison School. Band and chorus are elective programs and call for a specific commitment in order for the programs to serve each individual member. The commitment is needed from both the student and the parents where the good of the program is always paramount. If the guidelines and procedures are understood and followed by all, then each individual member will have an optimal experience.

What distinguishes elective music programs from a general music class is the required dedication and discipline on the part of each student in order to successfully learn to play their instrument, develop their voice, gain experience in an ensemble and to perform for an audience and set goals such as preparing to perform at NYSSMA and PCMEA festivals. Music performance can be described as ‘enjoyable’ and ‘rewarding’ but the required work and dedication is not ‘fun’. It takes hard work, which will undoubtedly pose challenges for each ensemble, and each individual member. Part of the reward of this pursuit is to grow, reach beyond your grasp, and to learn more about one’s self from navigating through these challenges. In short, the benefits far outweigh the challenges and each band and chorus member will value their role in the ensemble.

One of the primary goals for all members of the band and chorus is for each child to be engaged, and to truly feel a part of the group. The method book and concert program selections are carefully thought out to consider an ensemble’s existing musical reference and reality, with the goal of augmenting this existing reality and reference. The musical genres studied in band are pop, classical, world folk music, and jazz. Selections that are a part of the repertoire criteria for NYSSMA and PCMEA performances are selected and rehearsed as well. Rehearsals and lessons will reflect the ongoing goal of learning this repertoire and the musical skill sets and related contexts that give each student a solid comprehension of the music covered in the curriculum.

This year has been unprecedented with the global pandemic. So much can be stated on its effect on each of our lives, but suffice it to say that safety will be first and foremost when your child is participating in band and/or chorus this year. Every safety protocol and procedure as it relates to singing and playing wind instruments in addition to general best practices will be in place.

I want to thank you for your commitment to the arts and to these programs, which will no doubt grow and flourish over time. On the last page of this handbook, there is a signature page that I ask each parent, and each student to please sign as an indicator that you have read all of the handbook in its entirety and agree to the rules and procedures held forth for each child and parent in this handbook.

Yours in Garrison's music,

Paul Connors

Garrison Band

### Procedures for enrolling in band

#### Elementary School Band:

In June each year an instrumental petting zoo is conducted where the students in the third grade are shown instruments of the concert band. Mr. Connors, as well as an additional music teacher and an instrument rental representative and technician then model these instruments. The children try out each of the concert band instruments and are carefully assessed by the professionals.

This procedure has three important purposes: (1) to educate the student of the various concert band instruments available in the band program (2) to guide the student to an instrument for which they demonstrate the best aptitude (ensuring the optimal future experience) and (3) prevent frustration and possibility of dropping the instrument.

A student is given a choice of 3 instruments to try out, and then they are assessed on those instruments. If the elementary band currently has a full vacancy on a particular instrument, then a student's second choice is offered; if the second choice has a full vacancy, then the third choice is offered. Below is a list of available concert band instruments for elementary band. These instruments are offered and limited to the following due to method book availability, instrumentation accepted in NYSSMA and PCMEA concert band adjudication festivals, and in line with the New York State Band Director's Association, and the National Band Association:

Percussion (all drums and mallets) 5 members

Trumpets 8 members

Trombones 4 members

Alto saxophones 6 members

Tenor saxophones 4 members

Baritone Saxophones 2 members

French Horns 4 members

Clarinets 6 members

Flutes 8 members

To enroll in band once instrument is established:

Fill out the Google Form emailed out to all families by the due date. Make sure the instrument listed on the Google Form is the instrument assigned by the teacher through the petting zoo assessment/student choice process.

\*If a student wishes to switch an instrument, there will be an audition/assessment each June for the following year available for any open vacancy instrument section in the band.

#### Dropping band:

If a student needs to drop band for any reason, a written notification by the parent must be sent to Mr. Connors. Once dropped, the student relinquishes their spot in the band instrument section, making a vacancy in that section.

#### Middle School Band:

Any middle school student new to the school, wishing to enroll in band is to fill out the Google Form emailed to all families with an indication that they are new, and desired instrument. If the instrument is available and there is a vacancy in that

section, an assessment will be arranged and conducted by Mr. Connors. The instruments and number in each section are as follows:

Percussion (all drums and mallets) 5 members

Trumpets 8 members

Trombones 4 members

Alto saxophones 6 members

Tenor saxophones 4 members

Baritone Saxophones 2 members

French Horns 4 members

Clarinets 6 members

Flutes 8 members

To Enroll:

Fill out the Google Form emailed out to all families by the due date. Make sure the instrument listed on the Google Form is the instrument assigned by the teacher through the petting zoo assessment/student choice process.

\*If a student wishes to switch an instrument in band, there will be an audition/assessment each June for the following year available for any open vacancy instrument section in the band.

Dropping band:

If a student needs to drop band for any reason, a written notification by the parent must be sent to Mr. Connors. Once dropped, the student relinquishes their spot in the band instrument section, making a vacancy in that section.

## Instrumental Rental for Band:

Each band member rents or purchases their instrument once they are approved for their instrument in band. The Garrison School does not rent out or supply instruments to students for band. If there are circumstances where there is an issue with affordability, there is a fund in place to assist students that require financial assistance with instrument rental for band. The parent of a band student is to contact Mr. Connors by email in there is a need for financial assistance.

The Garrison School supplies all concert sheet music and band method books. A student will be given a method book for their instrument for the duration of the school year. The method book is to be returned to the music department of the Garrison School at the end of the school year in good condition.

There are various instrumental rental companies both nationally and regionally. The school has an ongoing vendor relationship with Music & Arts, which is based out of Monroe, NY. To rent from Music & Arts, please follow these instructions:

- 1) Go to [WWW.musicarts.com](http://WWW.musicarts.com)
- 2) Click on RENTALS
- 3) Enter Your Zip Code for GARRISON (10524)
- 4) Select Grade and **Fall Delivery**
- 5) Select School and instrument, accessories will be offered too such as #2 reeds...
- 6) Please be sure to take the very inexpensive LDW Coverage to cover any repairs or damage.

Due to health concerns, Music & Arts rental company is offering school drop off as well as store curbside pick up of rental instruments this year. Instrument rentals, repairs and purchasing are between the parent of the band member and the rental company of their choice. Per usual past procedures, deliveries and pick-up of instruments are accepted at the Garrison School through the music department.

Band structure, expectations and curriculum:

The Garrison School band structure is similar to a sports team. Our band needs the commitment of every single member in order to function properly. Participation and engagement in all aspects of Band are necessary: we need every instrument, we need all ears, and we need all contributions in order to truly succeed in growth and discovery.

The band room is a safe space to engage in all activities. In the band room everyone is safe to express themselves as it relates to the music activities, to be heard, to ask questions relating to our studies, to try when something is new or challenging, and to support classmates and to be supported by classmates.

Every band member is an ambassador for the program. The band as a collective, strives to bring out each individual's best self, and to reflect this in all aspects of student life at the Garrison School. Each band member is made aware of the fact that each underclassman from K through third grade is closely watching members of the band in quiet awe. Whether the responsibility of setting an example for the younger students is a desired role or not, the expectation is to demonstrate what each band member knows to be nothing short of admirable and inspiring behavior. The true sense of self-esteem is achieved through '*esteemable*' acts, and this is part of how band members bring out each other's best self.

- We do our best at all times
- We help each other to do our best while keeping the focus on ourselves
- Everyone's feelings, dignity and safety are respected in our band room
- A band member is a team member, which means each member serves the interest and goals of the entire band

Any place outside of the band room - whether it is the concert stage, field trip or music festival, is an extension of the band room and all expectations and benefits of membership set forth in this handbook apply.

There are always opportunities for leadership in band whether it is volunteering to participate in an informal performance for younger students during lunch, volunteering to help assist those band members in need of help during a sectional practice or rehearsal, participating in PCMEA, or in solo adjudication for

NYSSMA, or whether it is auditioning for 1<sup>st</sup> chair of a section of middle school band (no first chair in elementary school band).

Band class, sectional lessons, suggestion of private lessons:

The band rehearses as an ensemble twice a school cycle working on musical skill sets necessary to understand and successfully perform concert band repertoire. This is achieved through carefully chosen exercises and arrangements in the band method books, activities from music technology software such as SmartMusic, and technical exercises designed to train and broaden musical skill sets such as ear training, reading notation, and breath control. In addition, performance techniques, and concert etiquette are taught. Each band member is expected to demonstrate proper performance and concert etiquette at all times.

Each section of the band meets at an assigned time once per school cycle during the school day to have a sectional group lesson. These group lessons give closer attention to material covered in band ensemble classes. Technical guidance and problem solving strategies are taught to individuals of each section during these sectional lessons.

There may be occasional assistance in these sectional lessons from outside musical clinicians who come to assist with the technical aspects of each instrument such as proper embouchure and breathing technique.

It is *strongly* encouraged that band members pursue individual one on one private instruction on their instrument. There is profound truth that each band member will get out only as much as they put into the pursuit of their instrument. However helpful the sectional group lessons may be for band members, there is no substitute for the benefit of individual lessons by an experienced instructor whose primary instrument matches the student's instrument of study. This extra commitment may mean the difference of a child's ability to persevere through the challenges encountered in instrument study.

The Garrison School music department has a list of established educators in the area that may be available to teach one on one private lessons on each band member's specific instrument. All arrangements of one on one private lessons, and all details relating to the lessons are to be arranged by the student's parents and the individual teacher. The Garrison School claims no responsibility for the teachers who are listed for specific instruments available for lessons for band members of

the Garrison School. There is no financial assistance available for private lessons as it is not through the Garrison School.

Performance dates (school performances, NYSSMA, PCMEA, rehearsals, practice, concert etiquette, concert attire):

### **Concert Dates 2020-2021**

Garrison School performances:

#### **Garrison School Winter Concert is to be recorded and posted for family viewing in December, 2020**

- Elementary School Chorus
- Middle School Chorus
- Middle School Band
- General music students grades 3-5

#### **Garrison School K-2 Concert projected for March 2021 \*during school hours**

- General music students kindergarten, first, and second grades (K-2)

#### **Garrison School Spring Concert is to be recorded and posted for family viewing in May, 2021**

- Elementary School Band
- Elementary School Chorus
- Middle School Band
- Middle School Chorus

NYSSMA music festival: Zone 10

**NYSSMA Festival is in flux for the 2021 season. Participation will be on hold for this year due to health safety.**

For reference, NYSSMA participation criteria: Band members will usually have the opportunity to participate in the Putnam County NYSSMA Festival in April each year. When the festival is available, band members who are interested in performing a solo piece on their instrument for the festival should contact Mr. Connors to discuss participation, preparation with a private lesson instructor, and repertoire.

Level 1-4 Solo and Ensemble \$16; Level 1-4 Piano Solo \$22; Level 5-6 Solo and Ensemble \$24; Level 5-6 Piano Solo \$30; All-State Solo \$30; \*\*\*Major Organization Fees: Level 1-3 Major Organization \$150; Level 4 Major Organization \$180; Level 5-6 Major Organization \$225

The Garrison School will pay for ensemble fees but not for solo fees.

Further information available at

<https://www.nyssma.org/membership/zone-maps/zone-10/>

PCMEA All-County music festival:

**PCMEA is in flux for the 2021 season. Participation will be on hold for this year due to health safety.**

\*(both band and chorus have taken place at George Fischer Middle School 281 Fair St. Carmel, NY 10512)

Entries are usually due the second week of October.

Participation requires each student to pay \$15 to the PCMEA.

Tickets are \$5 each, and each student is allowed 2 tickets. The tickets are available on the day of the performance at the door.

PCMEA concert attire per the PCMEA handbook:

Boys: Black dress pants, Black Socks, Black Shoes,

Girls: White Dress Shirt Girls: Black dress PANTS, Black Socks, Black Shoes, White Dress Shirt NO JEANS, LEGGINGS, OR SNEAKERS, PLEASE!

PCMEA All-County Band participation criteria per the PCMEA handbook:

Middle School Band members usually have the opportunity to be chosen to participate in the PCMEA All-County Music Festival in February.

Middle school students are chosen upon recommendation from Mr. Connors. Past participation is not a variable for consideration.

Per the PCMEA website, the criteria for consideration are as follows: NYSSMA levels and scores, instrumentation, fair district representation, audition, a band

member's adherence to the Garrison School band guidelines and current output and grade in band class.

Further information can be found at <http://www.pcmea.org>

Rehearsals for concerts:

Band rehearsals will be conducted in band class during school hours. If there are additional rehearsals necessary to prepare for any performance, it will occur during school hours and Mr. Connors will notify each family and arrange it through the administration and faculty. Private one on one music lessons with an instructor whose primary instrument matches your child's instrument are most valuable in helping to prepare for rehearsals, concerts and festivals. Private one on one lessons with a teacher whose primary instrument matches the student's instrument optimizes practice strategies and technical assessment specific for that particular instrument. There is one off-site rehearsal for PCMEA festival the Friday before the Saturday performance. Mr. Connors will communicate the logistics of PCMEA festival participation to families via email.

Practice:

Each band member is expected to be prepared for each class and sectional rehearsal. Daily practice is the only way to achieve consistent improvement and to have a positive, enjoyable experience in band. The band will be given specific instructions on assignments to practice and have prepared for the following class. During sectional rehearsals each group will be guided as to practice on their specific instrument. Group assessment and adjustments will take place in the context of method book study and concert repertoire preparation. Mr. Connors will give specific notes for individuals to discuss and work on with a student's private instructor when applicable.

One of the most effective ways in which to help in a child's practice regimen is for parents to take their families to live performances. There is nothing like the inspiration and connection that a person receives from a live performance. Music is a performing art, and the power of live music of all genres, in particular for our children in band or chorus, is that it works as a source of reference of what is

possible on an instrument, or in performance in general. More times than not, a child will walk away from a performance having experienced inspiration and a connection that serves as a conduit to sustain a young music student to continue, day in and day out, their pursuit of study. A child's relationship with music is in direct proportion to a child's exposure to music in everyday life. In addition to music being played in the home, instruments out and available around the house just as books and toys, the experience of being part of the back and forth transmission that a performer and an audience member experience will no doubt build a refined and vast reference for the child and deepen the child's relationship with music.

### Concert Etiquette:

Beginning in kindergarten, all general music classes feature a continuous unit, revisited for the entire school year focusing on concert etiquette and what it is to be a good audience member. In attending performances outside of school, a student brings a wider reference point and a more valued contribution to this unit of study. Dialogue, activities and skits are used in general music class to help understand what it is to take part in a performance as a performer and as an audience member.

### Performance

#### Power of repetition –

I will be heard many times advising my classes and ensembles “What we do in this room is what we will do on the stage.” Behind this statement is the idea of the power of repetition. How we engage in a class or rehearsal will be reflected in our performance. This is a simple but powerful concept that I communicate to my students. Relaxed, mindful, engaged practice will make for a great experience for each child, and is my primary wish for each student – a great performance *experience*.

Below are some performance concert etiquette guideline bullet points:

- We are relaxed and mindful while being aware of our stage presence
- Stage presence consists of being aware of ourselves in relation to the group onstage, and our output as an ensemble to the audience.

- Our relaxed focus includes posture, attention to the conductor and acknowledgement of applause from the audience.
- Relaxed focus never includes waving in acknowledgement to audience members, or side conversations on stage during a performance.

## Audience

Culture specific engagement –

Being a member of an audience is a crucial part of a performance and calls for specific engagement and behaviors. Rarely is it overtly communicated that an audience has entered into a role of specific engagement, but nevertheless it is in place. Music being a reflection of a specific culture and period of time in history, the audience expectations in music performances at the Garrison School reflects those performances and standards relating to department offerings of concert band, choral ensembles and Broadway musical theatre.

Below are some audience member concert etiquette guideline bullet points:

- Prior to the start of a performance, an audience member needs to be seated and ready so as not to disturb a performance by entering late while the performance is taking place.
- All devices brought in by an audience member need to be turned *off* prior to the start of a performance. Putting a device on silent still buzzes and illuminates during a performance and is distracting and is in direct conflict of proper empathy and consideration for the performers and audience members.
- An audience member has an important role of engagement during a performance. They are silent and attentive when appropriate, they respond with an appropriate response in context of the performance (laughter, gasp, applause) and do not disturb a performance with actions such as talking to other audience members or shouting out during a performance.
- If it is requested to please refrain from photography, please respect the policies of the venue and production.
- If photography is allowed, please do not block or obstruct any other audience member's view with photos or video taping.
- A good audience member stays through the entire performance. If a portion of a production has completed, and a child has finished performing, that

child and any audience member is asked to please exhibit proper concert etiquette and remain a part of the audience for all performers until the end of the concert.

Concert attire for Garrison performances:

Band concert attire is the same for all performances. This is intended to be in line with Putnam County and NY state standards as well as ease and simplicity for families of one manner of attire for all concerts.

Concert attire: White top, black bottom

White top (solid white only, button-down shirts and blouses only, no t-shirts, no off-white tones)

Black trousers, skirts, stockings and shoes (solid black only, no sneakers, no sandals, no warm up pants, no leggings, no jeggings)

Grading rubric:

Attendance: 25%

Effort: 37.5%

Adherence to band guidelines and expectations in handbook 37.5%

## Garrison Chorus

To enroll in chorus:

Fill out the Google Form emailed out to all families by the due date. Make sure the child's name, grade, and whether they are also in band are listed on the Google Form.

### Dropping chorus:

If a student needs to drop chorus for any reason, a written notification by the parent must be sent to Mr. Connors. Once dropped, the student relinquishes their spot in the band instrument section, making a vacancy in that section.

Garrison School Chorus:

Chorus structure, expectations:

The Garrison School chorus structure is similar to a sports team. Our chorus ensemble needs commitment from every single member in order to function properly. Participation and engagement in all aspects of chorus are necessary: we need every voice, we need all ears, and we need all contributions in order to truly succeed in growth and discovery.

The chorus room is a safe space to engage in all activities. In the chorus room everyone is safe to express themselves as it relates to the music activities, to be heard, to ask questions relating to our studies, to try when something is new or challenging, and to support classmates and to be supported by classmates.

Every member of chorus is an ambassador for the program. The chorus as a collective, strives to bring out each individual's best self, and to reflect this in all aspects of student life at the Garrison School. Each chorus member is made aware of the fact that each underclassman from K through third grade is closely watching members of the chorus in quiet awe. Whether the responsibility of setting an example for the younger students is a desired role or not, the expectation is to demonstrate what each chorus member knows to be nothing short of admirable and

inspiring behavior. The true sense of self-esteem is achieved through ‘*esteemable*’ acts, and this is part of how chorus members bring out each other’s best self.

- We do our best at all times
- We help each other to do our best while keeping the focus on ourselves
- Everyone’s feelings, dignity and safety are respected in our chorus room
- A chorus member is a team member, which means each member serves the interest and goals of the entire chorus

Any place outside of the chorus room - whether it is the concert stage, field trip or music festival, is an extension of the chorus room and all expectations and benefits of membership set forth in this handbook apply.

There are always opportunities for leadership in chorus whether it is volunteering to participate in an informal performance for younger students during lunch, volunteering to help assist those chorus members in need of help during a rehearsal, or participating in PCMEA, or solo adjudication for NYSSMA.

#### Chorus class curriculum:

The elementary and middle school chorus rehearse as an ensemble once per school cycle, working on musical skill sets necessary to understand and successfully perform concert choir repertoire. This is achieved through carefully chosen vocal exercises, arrangements for choral ensemble, activities from music technology software such as SmartMusic, and technical exercises designed to train and broaden musical skill sets such as ear training, reading notation, and breath control.

The chorus class curriculum involves a variety of methods such as Kodaly and Bel Canto to carefully train the voice while simultaneously learning music theory, sight-singing technique, and repertoire from the concert choir canon. In addition, popular music, madrigal, folk music of various cultures of the world, jazz, and a cappella ensemble music is studied and prepared for performance.

In addition, performance techniques, and concert etiquette are taught. Each member of the chorus is expected to demonstrate proper performance and concert etiquette at all times.

Private lessons:

It is *strongly* encouraged that members of chorus pursue individual one on one private voice instruction. There is profound truth that each chorus member will get out only as much as they put into the pursuit of training their voice. However helpful the weekly chorus classes may be for students, there is no substitute for the benefit of individual attention in private one on one lessons by an experienced voice instructor. This extra commitment may mean the difference of a child's ability to persevere through the challenges encountered in chorus.

The Garrison School music department has a list of established educators in the area that may be available to teach one on one private voice lessons. All arrangements of one on one private lessons, and all details relating to the lessons are to be arranged by the student's parents and the individual teacher. The Garrison School claims no responsibility for the teachers who are listed for specific instruments available for lessons for chorus members of the Garrison School. There is no financial assistance available for private lessons as it is not through the Garrison School.

**NYSSMA Festival is in flux for the 2021 season. Participation will be on hold for this year due to health safety.**

For reference, NYSSMA participation criteria: Chorus members will usually have the opportunity to participate in the Putnam County NYSSMA Solo Festival in April each year. When the festival is available, chorus members who are interested in performing a solo piece on their instrument for the festival should contact Mr. Connors to discuss participation, preparation with a private lesson instructor, and repertoire.

NYSSMA participation criteria: Choral members usually have the opportunity to participate in the Putnam County NYSSMA Festival in April. Choral members who are interested in performing a solo piece for the festival should contact Mr. Connors to discuss participation, preparation with a private lesson instructor, and repertoire.

Choral ensemble participation is contingent on the current Chorus roster's ability to match NYSSMA repertoire requirements.

NYSSMA Solo Fees are as follows:

Level 1-4 Solo and Ensemble \$16; Level 1-4 Piano Solo \$22; Level 5-6 Solo and Ensemble \$24; Level 5-6 Piano Solo \$30; All-State Solo \$30; \*\*\*Major Organization Fees: Level 1-3 Major Organization \$150; Level 4 Major Organization \$180; Level 5-6 Major Organization \$225

The Garrison School will not pay not for solo fees.

Further information available at

<https://www.nyssma.org/membership/zone-maps/zone-10/>

PCMEA All-County music festival:

**PCMEA is in flux for the 2021 season. Participation will be on hold for this year due to health safety.**

\*(both band and chorus have taken place at George Fischer Middle School 281 Fair St. Carmel, NY 10512)

Participation requires each student to pay \$15 to the PCMEA. Tickets are \$5 each, and each student is allowed 2 tickets. The tickets are available on the day of the performance at the door.

PCMEA concert attire per the PCMEA handbook:

Boys: Black dress pants, Black Socks, Black Shoes,

Girls: White Dress Shirt Girls: Black dress PANTS, Black Socks, Black Shoes, White Dress Shirt NO JEANS, LEGGINGS, OR SNEAKERS, PLEASE!

PCMEA All-County Chorus participation criteria per the PCMEA handbook:

Middle School Chorus members usually have the opportunity to be chosen to participate in the PCMEA All-County Music Festival in February each year.

Middle school students are chosen upon recommendation from Mr. Connors. Past participation is not a variable for consideration.

Per the PCMEA website, the criteria for consideration are as follows: NYSSMA levels and scores, instrumentation, fair district representation, audition, a chorus

member's adherence to the Garrison School band guidelines and current output and grade in chorus class.

Further information can be found at <http://www.pcmea.org>

Rehearsals for concerts:

Chorus rehearsals will be conducted in chorus class during school hours. If there are additional rehearsals necessary to prepare for any performance, it will occur during school hours and Mr. Connors will notify each family and arrange it through the administration and faculty. Private one on one voice lessons are most valuable in helping to prepare for rehearsals, concerts and festivals. Private one on one voice lessons optimize practice strategies and technical assessment specific for a student's age and register. There is one off-site rehearsal for PCMEA festival the Friday before the Saturday performance. Mr. Connors will communicate the logistics of PCMEA festival participation to families via email.

Practice:

Each chorus member is expected to be prepared for each class. Daily practice is the only way to achieve consistent improvement, maintain a healthy and strong voice, and to have a positive and enjoyable experience in chorus. The chorus will be given specific instructions on assignments to practice and have prepared for the following class. Mr. Connors will give specific notes for individuals to discuss and work on with a student's private instructor when applicable.

One of the most effective ways in which to help in a child's practice regimen is for parents to take their families to live performances. There is nothing like the inspiration and connection that a person receives from a live performance. Music is a performing art, and the power of live music of all genres, in particular for our children in chorus, is that it works as a source of reference of what is possible with the human voice and in performance in general. More times than not, a child will walk away from a performance having experienced inspiration and a connection that serves as a conduit to sustain a young music student to continue, day in and day out, their pursuit of study. A child's relationship with music is in direct proportion to a child's exposure to music in everyday life. In addition to music being played in the home, instruments out and available around the house just as

books and toys, the experience of being part of the back and forth transmission that a performer and an audience member experience will no doubt build a refined and vast reference for the child and deepen the child's relationship with music.

### Concert Etiquette:

Beginning in kindergarten, all general music classes feature a continuous unit, revisited for the entire school year focusing on concert etiquette and what it is to be a good audience member. In attending performances outside of school, a student brings a wider reference point and a more valued contribution to this unit of study. Dialogue, activities and skits are used in general music class to help understand what it is to take part in a performance as a performer and as an audience member.

### Performance

#### Power of repetition –

I will be heard many times advising my classes and ensembles “What we do in this room is what we will do on the stage.” Behind this statement is the idea of the power of repetition. How we engage in a class or rehearsal will be reflected in our performance. This is a simple but powerful concept that I communicate to my students. Relaxed, mindful, engaged practice will make for a great experience for each child, and is my primary wish for each student – a great performance *experience*.

Below are some performance concert etiquette guideline bullet points:

- We are relaxed and mindful while being aware of our stage presence
- Stage presence consists of being aware of ourselves in relation to the group onstage, and our output as an ensemble to the audience.
- Our relaxed focus includes posture, attention to the conductor and acknowledgement of applause from the audience.
- Relaxed focus never includes waving in acknowledgement to audience members, or side conversations on stage during a performance.

## Audience

Culture specific engagement –

Being a member of an audience is a crucial part of a performance and calls for specific engagement and behaviors. Rarely is it overtly communicated that an audience has entered into a role of specific engagement, but nevertheless it is in place. Music being a reflection of a specific culture and period of time in history, the audience expectations in music performances at the Garrison School reflects those performances and standards relating to department offerings of concert band, choral ensembles and Broadway musical theatre.

Below are some audience member concert etiquette guideline bullet points:

- Prior to the start of a performance, an audience member needs to be seated and ready so as not to disturb a performance by entering late while the performance is taking place.
- All devices brought in by an audience member need to be turned *off* prior to the start of a performance. Putting a device on silent still buzzes and illuminates during a performance and is distracting and is in direct conflict of proper empathy and consideration for the performers and audience members.
- An audience member has an important role of engagement during a performance. They are silent and attentive when appropriate, they respond with an appropriate response in context of the performance (laughter, gasp, applause) and do not disturb a performance with actions such as taking to other audience members or shouting out during a performance.
- If it is requested to please refrain from photography, please respect the policies of the venue and production.
- If photography is allowed, please do not block or obstruct any other audience member's view with photos or video taping.
- A good audience member stays through the entire performance. If a portion of a production has completed, and a child has finished performing, that child and any audience member is asked to please exhibit proper concert etiquette and remain a part of the audience for all performers until the end of the concert.

Concert attire for Garrison performances:

Chorus concert attire is the same for all performances. This is intended to be in line with Putnam County and NY state standards as well as ease and simplicity for families of one manner of attire for all concerts.

Concert attire: White top, black bottom

White top (solid white only, button-down shirts and blouses only, no t-shirts, no off-white tones)

Black trousers, skirts, stockings and shoes (solid black only, no sneakers, no sandals, no warm up pants, no leggings, no jeggings)

Grading rubric:

Attendance: 25%

Effort: 37.5%

Adherence to chorus guidelines and expectations in handbook 37.5%

Parent/child signature page

Please open signature page by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.gle/47QR6uWzCcxurDZT7>