



# Weekly Update



## Week of

**3/10/25**

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**3/14/25**



## News of the Week

Please check for important information in this weekly update.

Monday and Wednesday night we will have music recruitment nights from 4-6. Some students have volunteered to show their instruments.

This week we have a PBIS day on Friday, students will not need their instruments that day.



## Connections Schedule

**B A B A X**

## ★ Reminders★

Students should be practicing at home using MakeMusic at least 3-4 days a week for a minimum of 15 minutes each day. Practice is the students homework in orchestra and is expected of ALL students.

**[WWW.RHMSORCHESTRA.ORG](http://WWW.RHMSORCHESTRA.ORG)**

# Announcements



**Connections Schedules can be found on the RHMS Official Website. The schedule I use is the schedule listed on the school's master calendar.**

## **Make Music**

**Please make sure that students are using this platform for their practicing, especially 6th grade. The method book and concert music are in this platform. There are many tools such as tuners, metronomes, and other music students can use.**

## **Practice Habits**

**Now that we are entering concert season, home practice is more important than ever. I had a clinician once tell my students that 90% of a student's growth as a musician takes place at home, only 10% happens in the classroom. At this point the skills are learned, now we put the skills to use. Practicing at home is not an optional activity but is an extension of the academic course and is expected of all students.**

## **Parent Google Folder - UPDATE**

**Link -**

**[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WVBF7y17XiHjHcYx5\\_hcdhNtYexKFiFG?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WVBF7y17XiHjHcYx5_hcdhNtYexKFiFG?usp=drive_link)**

## **DONATIONS**

**We are always accepting donations. If you'd rather donate verses purchasing items from our fundraiser, there is an option to do so. Please keep in mind that 100% of the donations comes to us with a direct donation, through the fundraiser, they keep a small portion.**

## **STUDENT MATERIALS**

**Students are required to have the following materials each day:**

- Should Rest (this came in the care package at the beginning of the year)**
- Their music each day**
- Their instrument with a name tag on the case.**

**We are currently missing four shoulder rests. These items should never leave the orchestra room. Students will be checking out all school owned items starting this week.**

# 6th Grade



## THIS WEEK'S **MUSIC MAKING**

### Practice Material

- Students will be working on exercises 80, 82, 84, 85, 90, 91 in their method book.

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#### TESTS:

None this week

# 7th Grade



## THIS WEEK'S **MUSIC MAKING**

### Practice Material

#### A-Day

Scales - C Major and a minor  
Habits - Exercises 1-5

Color of the Wind - Mes. 1-36  
My Favorite Things - Entire Piece

#### B-Day

Scales - D and G Major

Students will be working on exercises 80, 82, 84, 85, 90, 91  
in the method book.

Students will receive My Favorite Things this week.

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**TESTS:**

None this week

# 8th Grade



## THIS WEEK'S **MUSIC MAKING**

This week we will be reviewing the material below.

### Practice Material

#### A-Day

Scales - Eb, Bb, F, C, G, D, A, E Major  
a, g, e minor

Star Wars - Mes. 1-36  
Nimrod - Entire Piece

#### B-Day

Scales - D, G, C, F and a minor

Habits - Exercises 1-5

Star Wars - Mes. 1-36

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**TESTS:**

None this week

# Chamber Orchestra



## **NEXY REHEARSAL** **March 24**

**Turning Point**  
**This is Halloween**  
**Adagio for Strings**

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### **Chamber Rehearsal Schedule**

**March 24 (A Day)**  
**April 14 (A Day)**  
**April 28 (A Day)**

### **Chamber Concert Schedule**

**April 29 - Spring Concert at FBC Richmond Hill**

# Practice Information



**As we enter second semester, it is great to see and hear all the students progressing. Second semester also presents new experiences for our students. For nearly 80% of our program, in the next two months there will be many firsts. The beginning orchestra's first concert to the seventh graders and even some eighth graders experiencing LGPE for the first time. Home practice is more crucial now than ever. However, this is only possible with your help. Students are given assignments at the end of class each day to work on for the next class, these assignments are posted in Google Classroom and throughout the weekly email. However, it is the responsibility of the student to work on those assignments individually. I encourage you to have a conversation with your student about their practice habits. Without a plan, students may feel lost. I provide resources and review these resources in class about once every quarter. Those resources can be found on pages 9 and 10 in the orchestra handbook. Students also have access to MakeMusic for review and feedback on most of our pieces and method books. Learning an instrument requires patience, time, dedication, and determination. Skills are taught in the classroom and mastered during their practice time. Class time is more meaningful when students are prepared every day, and we move quickly. I took this line from one of the most successful music programs in the country, "The HAPPIEST student is the one who is improving themselves through regular habits of practice and daily progress." In other words, students will only have "fun" in orchestra if they practice. As with any activity, you get out of it what you put into it.**

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# What is LGPE?



For those unfamiliar with LGPE or Large Group Performance Evaluation, it is the equivalent of the GMAS for music ensembles. We take our groups to perform for three stage judges and one sight-reading judge. LGPE's purpose is an annual assessment of student achievement by each school's musical ensembles. Although these evaluations are not counted as part of the school's performance each year, it does, however, provide school administrators and the community with the state of music programs at each school within a school district.

The director will choose musical literature that will demonstrate the various fundamental performance standards and concepts in the curriculum. The degree of difficulty of the compositions will vary depending on the knowledge and skills of the ensemble. Music is categorized by six different grade levels, Grade Level I compositions are for novice and beginner groups, whereas Grade Level VI is written for advanced and college-level performers. Here at Richmond Hill Middle School, our audition-based Chamber Orchestra participates at LGPE taking Grade Levels II and/or III literature. This matches the middle school orchestra curriculum and standards as set by the Georgia Department of Education Music Standards.

It is no small feat to earn a Superior Rating, it is a lot of hard work on the part of each student. To earn a Superior is a huge honor, which no student should not take lightly. Achieving this honor places, the group in the top tier of ensembles. We do not take this lightly here at Richmond Hill Middle School and students are expected to be their best every day rather they perform in the beginning ensembles or our chamber orchestra. The students attitude and having a growth mindset is what sets us apart from other groups and upholding a reputation of "Excellence through Music."

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# Solo and Ensemble



**Solo and Ensemble is very similar to LGPE but is designed with the individual player and small ensembles in mind. Students who wish to participate in solo and ensemble will perform their piece for a judge and will receive either a superior, excellent, good, fair, or poor rating. The difficulty of the piece should be at the student's skill level. Students will be required to have an accompanist for solos (student will need to secure an accompanist) and ensembles will be selected at the director's approval.**

**Spring Solo and Ensemble Date is April 26, 2025.**

**Ensembles will need to have their music picked no later than Friday, March 14.**

