



Weekly Update



Week of

1/27/25

-

1/31/25



News of the Week

CONCERT DATE HAS CHANGED TO FEB. 20.

Congratulations to Anela Cruz, Jun Jong, Mika Lee, and Ahin Shin for passing round two of All-State Auditions. These students will participate in the GMEA All-State performances in Athens on March 1.

If you haven't signed up for the BAND APP please do so by Thursday, link is on the Band App page.



Connections Schedule

A B A B A

★ 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

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.

My Music Office

Log-in information has been passed out.

Band App

I will be using band app along with My Music Office this semester to send information out. The codes are only good for 48 hours. Please see the Band App page of this weekly update with the updated code.

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

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.

6th Grade



THIS WEEK'S **MUSIC MAKING**

Practice Material

- Students should continue working on exercises for the concert.

Exc. 1, 4, 7, 9, 15, 18, 23, 27, 32, 45, 48, 54, 56, and the D Major Scale.

Students will receive their first piece of sheet music this week.

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

Celtic Dance - Entire piece working on intonation
Skaters Waltz - Focusing on intonation.

The Russian Music Box - Entire piece working on intonation and tempo.

Kabuki Dance - Entire piece working on tempo.
An American Hymn - Entire piece working on intonation

B-Day

Scales - D and G Major

Habits Book 2 - Exercises 1-5 (focusing on Tone and articulation)

Ode to Joy Theme - Entire Piece
Copy Cat Concerto - Entire Piece
Winter Night - Entire Piece

We will pick the two best for the concert.

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**

**Students should be reviewing on ALL
PIECES for the concert and LGPE.
Assignments will be given in class and
posted in Google Classroom Tuesday night.**

B-Day

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

Habits - Exercises 1-5

**Celtic Dance - Entire Piece
Skaters Waltz - Entire Piece**

**B-Day will perform with the 7th Grade
Intermediate group.**

TESTS:

None this week

Chamber Orchestra



REAHEARSAL MONDAY, JAN 27

Legends of Glory

Such Sweet Sorrow

Toccatina

PRE-LGPE CONCERT - FEB. 11 at FBC 7pm

Chamber Rehearsal Schedule

January 27 (A Day)

February 10 (A Day)

February 24 (B Day)

March 3 (A Day)

March 24 (A Day)

April 14 (A Day)

April 28 (A Day)

Chamber Concert Schedule

February 11 - Pre-LGPE at FBC Richmond Hill

February 20 - Winter Concert

March 6 - LGPE in Macon

April 29 - Spring Concert at FBC Richmond Hill

Concert Information



**Concert has been postponed to
Thursday, February 20
6pm in the RHMS Gym**

**Students should be in the gym
ready for yearbook pictures at the
following call times:**

6th - 5:15

7th - 5:30

8th - 5:40

Late students will not be included in the yearbook

**Doors for the public and parents will
not open until 5:45.**

CONCERT DRESS

Gentlemen

- Black Orchestra Polo (tucked in)
 - Black Dress Slacks
 - Black Dress Shoes
 - Black socks

Ladies

- Black Orchestra Polo (tucked in)
- Black (Solid) pants or black skirt (skirt must be AT LEAST knee length and accompanied with black hose/spandex, etc.)
- Black Dress Shoes

Items not in dress code; athletic shoes, Crocs, flip-flops, shoes with white soles or designs, large jewelry which is a distraction, and items which violate school-dress code. There is a grade deduction for infractions (please refer to the performance rubric).

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.

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."

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.

Deadline to sign up will be Wednesday, January 29 and registration will be completed over the weekend.



Band App Registration



Follow the link below to register for the Band App.

You will need to download the app and you can sign up with the link below or with the code on the app.

Link and Code are valid until Noon on Tuesday, 1/28.

Link - <https://band.us/n/a2a3AdM61743l>

Code - 9572 SOAP
