

THE KANACK SCHOOL

2010-2011

POLICIES, PARTIES,

AND

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF

YOU NEED TO KNOW

Dear Parents, Students and faculty,

As times change, as we grow and develop, as we make gains and absorb losses, there is a need to be flexible and to make changes where necessary for the good of the school and thereby all the members of our wonderful community.

One thing which sets us apart from other good music schools in our area is the many opportunities our students get to work together and to motivate each other. Please take the time to look carefully through this handbook so that you may take full advantage of all of these opportunities.

As always, I welcome all comments, suggestions and discussion regarding any of our events, opportunities or policies. Your involvement makes us a stronger and wiser community. Thank you for being a part of it.

Sincerely,

Alice Kanack

New Make Up Policy

Due to the extremely busy schedules of all of our faculty, we have adopted a new make-up policy. It is in fact the policy practiced by the Eastman Community Music School and the Hochstein School of Music. Our previous policy required our faculty to teach two extra weeks without pay, a policy which neither they nor the school can afford.

Students are charged for all lessons or classes for which they register, including those missed through student absence. As a courtesy, students are expected to notify their teachers directly of any impending absence from lessons. Some instructors offer make-up lessons under certain circumstances, but they are not obligated to do so. If a teacher is absent for a lesson, a make-up will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time, or a substitute instructor may teach the lesson.

New Web Site

Our new web site is up and running. Please take a moment to check it out. We are now able to update many items ourselves and are requesting permission to use video, audio, and digital pictures of our students performing. If you have not already done so, please fill out a permission form so we may use your child in this manner on the website. Names will not be used.

Recital Fee

All students perform at least twice a year in solo recitals. Many perform in group recitals, orchestra concerts, music hour, etc, as well as events outside the school. To help cover the expenses of these performances, each student will be billed \$20 in the second quarter, to cover a once per year fee.

House Competition

This is the healthiest kind of competition there is! Students compete for points by practicing at home, attending classes, and helping take care of their learning environment.

The rules:

- 1) A student chooses one of four houses to join and signs up.
- 2) Students keep track of minutes they practice between each lesson (lesson minutes don't count). For every 100 minutes they practice they receive a point.
 - i.e. 20 minutes X 5 days = 100 or 1 point
 - 40 minutes X 5 days = 200 or 2 points
 - 60 minutes X 5 days = 300 or 3 pointsStudents report the minutes to their teacher who reports to the headmaster (Alice).
- 3) Students attend group classes. Teachers take attendance and report to Alice. Each class is worth 1 point
- 4) Students volunteer for clean-up jobs or librarian jobs around the Kanack School. Each 15 minutes spent earns a point. Jobs are assigned by Diane on request and points are tallied and reported to Alice.

At the beginning of each week, the house standings will be published. Students from each house with the highest scores will receive prizes.

When the end of the competition is announced, the winning house will hold a party for all houses. (House leaders and the headmaster will assist!)

Music Hour

Music Hour is a monthly opportunity to perform. Students may sign up and perform with their teacher's permission. Jonathan Bowman will be available to rehearse prior to the performances. Sign-Up sheets will be posted beginning in October. Performances will be the last Wednesday of each month we are in session.

Chamber Music

Chamber Music is a separate class open to all students who can read music. Students registered for this class will be placed in small ensembles based on age and development, and will have weekly coaching and bi-annual performances. See Diane to register!

Zilching

'Zilching' is a concept borrowed from a music camp one of our students attended recently. It refers to a gathering of musicians to sight read great chamber music. Watch for announcements about these events. Bring an instrument, a snack to share and plan to enjoy a great evening. Listeners will also be welcome! (This is intended for older advanced students who read well!)

CAD Tour Group

CAD stands for Creative Ability Development. Students who have been in Improvisation classes for several years are chosen to perform with this very special and unique ensemble. There is a core group of older students with guest invitations to younger students on occasion. This group travels and performs in schools, conferences and events around the country. Last year's travel included the International Suzuki Conference in Minnesota, the national ASTA conference in California, and travels to Canada. If you are interested in knowing more about this opportunity, see Alice directly.

Music Alive

This has been an annual event for many years. It is a musical retreat at a local hotel in which students bring instruments, interact with guest artists, enjoy quality family time and become more musically motivated. The concept of Music Alive is to learn how music is really a beautiful, universal language which can be shared on many levels and in many ways.

Parties

Parties are a great way to get to know other families at the school. Students form close social bonds which serve to motivate them through the difficult years of disciplined practice it takes to master a musical instrument.

The Kick-Off Party

This was held for the first time this year. It is a way to meet teachers, play some music, meet new students and enjoy seeing old ones. It also served to give students a jump on signing up for houses and getting re-motivated to get back in the groove of music school.

The Halloween Party

This is an annual family friendly, musical, costume party. Faculty and guest artists perform. There is a haunted house (created by the Monday night orchestra), a candy toss, a costume contest and lots of good food and fun. (Bring a dish to share!) This year's date is October 30th!