



**Evelyn Champion, Director**

## **Orchestra Notes Week 9**

### **SUMMIT PIANO TRIO AT MILTON**

Orchestra students enjoyed a great concert by the Summit Piano Trio at Milton on October 2. Many thanks to the performers violinist Helen Kim, pianist Robert Henry, and cellist Charae Krueger, and to Mr. Rodriguez, the Milton Orchestra Director, for hosting us! Parents, thank you SO much for sending gift cards to give to the performers. They were grateful for the gesture. To see photos, visit the Orchestra News page here: <http://nmsperforms.org/orchestra/>

### **CONCERT NIGHT!**

Our **Fall Orchestra Concert** is Tuesday, October 17 in the gym at 7pm. Arrival time is 6pm. All students have received their new uniform shirt. Please review the uniform requirements in the orchestra handbook: <http://nmsperforms.org/orchestra-handbook/> or in the uniform letter: <http://nmsperforms.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Orchestra-Uniform-2017-2.pdf>

Also, please review the **concert letter** that is posted here: <http://nmsperforms.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/concert-reminder-letter-2017.pdf>

Reminder: payments to [Prestige Digital Imaging](#) for the student photos should be brought on the night of the concert. All students should have their picture made for our composite photo even if you don't buy the individual photos.

**PLEASE on concert night- NO perfume, body spray, etc that could set off students' asthma or allergies!**

**ANY CLASS THAT HAS PERFECT ATTENDANCE AT THE CONCERT WILL EARN A POPCORN PARTY WHILE WE WATCH THE CONCERT VIDEOS AND HAVE THE CONCERT WRAPUP TALK!**

### **NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR CONCERT**

♪ I would love to have a good photographer to take high quality photos during the concert-groups photos of the performance and candid shots of the students for my bulletin board. If you have a nice camera and would be willing to help, let me know!



# ORCHESTRA

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- ♪ I need a couple of parents to decorate the gym right before the concert. Last year I was able to borrow croton plants from Mr. Foreman at Flowers from Us. We could use any Fall decorations just to make the front of the gym floor look a little nicer.
- ♪ I need help with equipment after the concert. Everything has to be moved back to the orchestra room without ruining the gym floor. The sound shells have to be broken down and put into the storage room.
- ♪ I need help with student supervision during the concert. Students are not to be out of seats, jumping around, dancing, etc during the other grade levels performances.
- ♪ I need a volunteer to set up and serve/monitor the reception goodies after the concert.
- ♪ I need a volunteer to pick up the bakery goods from Rhodes Bakery in Roswell on the evening of our Fall Concert- perhaps someone that works in Roswell and can grab them on your way home? (this one is complete)
- ♪ I need two tech savvy volunteers to assist the photographers from 6-7 pm- you would be typing in student names as they get their pictures made. Arrive at 6pm so the photographer can show you what to do. (this one is complete)
- ♪ Please email me at [champione@fultonschools.org](mailto:champione@fultonschools.org) if you are willing to help. Thank you!

## **HANDBOOK**

The orchestra handbook is updated on our website, and the sign off link is at the bottom of the page: <http://nmsperforms.org/orchestra-handbook/> I am still missing a few sign offs. Thank you!

## **THE CLASSROOM WISHLIST FOR FALL 2017 IS COMPLETE!**

Thank you to the **Nix**, **Karim**, and **Ivy** families for the donations. We have a mop, a broom, and bass stool covers. Each time I mop the classroom it takes 8-10 Swiffer wet pads. Please keep sending those in!

## **CELLO LESSONS**

**Ariel Najarian**

-Start beginner cello lessons today!

-Offered to Northwestern Middle School students, lessons are close by and convenient

-Taught by Ariel Najarian, 1st chair cellist of MHS Chamber Orchestra

Phone: (678) 323-9300 Email: [arielnajarian@yahoo.com](mailto:arielnajarian@yahoo.com)



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## MUSIC DEPARTMENT SHIRT

The Music T-Shirt is here! This shirt is \$10. We will wear this for field trips and informal performances.



**The line item on OSP is:**

EN610-97	<b>Orchestra T-Shirt</b>	Champion, Evelyn	All	NA	8/9/2017	\$10.00
Orchestra T-Shirt No Refunds Non-Refundable Surcharge: 4% of transaction plus .35 cents						

## ORCHESTRA GRADES

Orchestra grades are very fluid. A very low grade one day, even failing, may be raised to an A the very next day when assignments are made up. Each progress report or 9 week grade report is a snapshot, and sometimes serves as a reminder to students to make up assignments or improve their daily assessment grade. Sometimes students don't realize they are behind until I put grades into Home Access, which I usually only can do on the weekends.

I keep up with each musicians' progress using the daily assessment rubric. This can be found here: <http://nmsperforms.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Daily-Skills-Assessment.pdf>. This is my record of each student's posture, position, rehearsal participation, preparation, and long term skill development and improvement.

I check each theory work book page twice, and then the grade is entered in Home Access. Students have ample class time to make corrections. To raise a low theory grade students must come in before school to make up the work.



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When students are absent, especially on a Theory Thursday, they will need to make up the missed assignments as soon as possible. For recovery, students can come in before school any day except Thursday. There is no deadline for recovery work in Orchestra, except playing assessments after concert dates. I will do my best to let you know by email if your child needs to make up any work.

The only way to effectively assess each musician's playing skills is through individual assessment. With a large number of students, the only way to efficiently assess individuals is online. Eighth grade students will be graded on benchmark assignments using SmartMusic, and sixth and seventh graders are assessed in Essential Elements Interactive.

We are also using ToneSavvy.com this year for music theory.

Concert attendance will be entered as a major assessment.

Feel free to contact me at any time if you have a question about your child's progress or grade.

Thank you,

♪ Mrs. Champion