



*Building bridges for today's students to cross in tomorrow's world with equity, innovation and optimism*

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## **Nyack Public Schools Music Department - Nyack, New York**

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### **NMS Music Department - 2020 Virtual Learning Guidelines**

*These guidelines will be used for music classes held virtually from September 9th to September 29th, after which the Music Department Handbook guidelines will take effect.*

#### **1) Students will follow the school building guidelines for Zoom meeting etiquette**

- a) Students will use only their legal name, and must show their face for the duration of the Zoom session. Attendance at class Zoom sessions is mandatory.
- b) Students may use a virtual background, but must be sitting upright (not lying in bed), and may not wear hats or coverings during the session.
- c) Students must remain muted unless they have asked to share. Appropriate language for school is required, and students should meet from a quiet place whenever possible.

#### **2) Students and families may communicate with teachers in a variety of ways**

- a) Outside of Zoom sessions, teachers will be communicating with students and families primarily through email, please make sure your most preferred email is on file with the guidance department.
- b) Students may also receive direct comments on classwork through the Google Classroom. You may join your child's Google Classroom as a guardian if you wish to see materials posted in class.
- c) Your child should make every effort to communicate directly with their teacher through email, during Zoom sessions, through Zoom chat, or in Google Classroom chat when they need assistance.
- d) Should you wish for a phone call, or a parent Zoom meeting, please make that request to your child's teacher. Office hours will differ.

#### **3) Students will participate in making music in a virtual setting**

- a) Students in band and orchestra will need their instruments for zoom sessions beginning September 14th. Please contact your child's teacher if you need more information about instruments.
- b) This year will make extensive use of digital media for the purposes of music education. Please be aware that while Zoom sessions with children will never be recorded, part of your child's learning process may involve the making and submission of digital recordings.
- c) Your child is responsible for engaging in online learning activities. Teachers will make every effort to inform you if there is a lack of engagement, but please check in on your child's grades often.
- d) If there is a family circumstance that affects your child's ability to fully participate in class, please keep us informed, and we will make every effort to accommodate your family's needs.

#### **4) Grading policies for virtual and hybrid learning are at the discretion of the teacher**

- a) Students must participate and engage in virtual lessons to earn credit.
  - i) Students can expect to earn credit for both participation in the class Zooms, as well as for the submission of any assignments given by the teacher.
- b) Grades will be posted in both Google Classroom and on Infinite Campus. You and your child will have access to this data, please keep yourself informed of your child's progress.
- c) Students in band and orchestra will need instruments to fully participate.
  - i) Teachers must be notified of broken instruments as soon as possible.
  - ii) Teachers will notify families of procedures for dropping off and picking up instruments.
  - iii) Students should be careful to keep their instrument maintained, and keep extra necessary supplies (spare reeds, extra rosin, etc.) where necessary.
- d) Grading will currently follow the outline below
  - i) Quarter 1 - 50% Class Participation, 50% Assignments/Assessments
  - ii) Quarter 2 - 40% Class Participation, 40% Assignments/Assessments, 20% Class Project
  - iii) Quarter 3 - 50% Class Participation, 50% Assignments/Assessments
  - iv) Quarter 4 - 40% Class Participation, 40% Assignments/Assessments, 20% Class Project

#### **5) What you can expect virtual classes to look like during virtual learning**

- a) The music department at the middle school will use Google Classroom. Materials for class will be posted virtually, students should plan to access class documents, assignments, handouts, and sheet music on their devices.
  - i) For music reading purposes, students may print out sheet music that has been posted, or may split-screen their device so they can read music and participate in Zoom.
- b) As students are learning from home, we will be making an effort to incorporate the concept of practicing into our classroom time so as to help delineate a difference between "school time" and "home time".
  - i) Students will always begin a music class with the teacher via Zoom. The teacher will take attendance, and then provide instructions for the day, or begin a lesson.
  - ii) There may be time during music classes when students are asked to log off of zoom to do individual practicing. Students are expected to follow their activity lists and complete work during this time.

**Please direct any questions about your child's music learning experience to their teacher**

#### ***NMS Music Department Staff***

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