

# Morrill Middle School Music Program

Thomas Carroll, Principal  
Anthony Alberts, Vice Principal

## MUSIC HANDBOOK

2018 - 2019 School Year



Helen Burns, Vocal Music Teacher  
Ken Rydeen, Instrumental Music Teacher

To the Families of Morrill's Musicians:

Welcome to the new year, and congratulations on your decision to begin, or continue your child's music education. Research has shown that music study has many academic and emotional benefits for children.

This handbook answers the most frequently asked questions about the music program, and gives an outline of courses of study, grading procedures, and the responsibilities of the students and families involved in the program.

Along with this handbook, you should receive a trip slip that allows students travel off campus for co-curricular activities during the school year. *This slip covers all off campus music activities.* You will be notified in advance of any music activity. If you do not wish your child to participate in any school sponsored music activity, please send a note to your child's music teacher. This slip also acknowledges that you have read through this handbook with your child, and understand the responsibilities of students and families in the Morrill Music Program.

If you wish to contact us, please call the school between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 P.M. to leave a voice mail message, or send an email. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ken Rydeen  
Instrumental Music Teacher  
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Helen Burns  
Vocal Music Teacher  
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## Music Classroom Rules

**1. Arrive on time prepared for class.**

**2. Respect other people.** (Music rooms are safe environments for all students. Everyone can expect to be free to learn, make music, and enjoy class without fear of physical, verbal, sexual or emotional harassment, or abuse.)

**3. Respect the classroom and the things in it.** (Students are given music, folders, song books, uniforms, or instruments during the school year. They are expected to take care of them, and barring normal wear and tear, expected to pay for damage, or loss of property belonging of Morrill. Chewing gum has no place in Morrill's music classes.)

**4. Maintain classroom order.** (Music classes have large numbers of students. Students are encouraged to ask questions to clarify their understanding. However, for the sake of order, we raise hands to speak, rather than disrupt the flow of the class by speaking out randomly.)

## Consequences

**First offense – verbal warning.**

**Second offense – Parent contact.**

**Third offense - Parent contact and lunch detention.**

**Fourth offense – Parent contact and office referral.**

Positive rewards include personal recognition from teacher, filling leadership roles and/or positive parent contact.

# Required Performances

Performing is an integral part of instruction for performing groups. A required performance is the grading equivalent of a term paper or a final exam of an academic core class. *An absence from a required performance, with or without an explanation, will result in a substantial grading penalty for the student, unless an alternate activity, equal in proportion to the performance, and acceptable to the instructor, is completed during the same trimester as the missed performance.*

## Required Performances for 2018-2019

In the event of any performance changes, families will be notified as soon as possible.

- **Advanced Choir Retreat – October 12**
- **Choir Field Trip - TBD**
- **Fall Concert – November 14, 7 PM, BYC; All Groups**
- **Choir Festival Concert - March 13, 7PM, Multi; All Choirs**
- **Heritage Music Festival in Anaheim – March 21-24, Anaheim, CA**
- **District Adv. Band Festival – Tuesday, March 26, 7 PM**
- **District Adv. Orchestra Festival – Wednesday, March 27, 7 PM**
- **Pops Concert – Wednesday, May 15, 7 PM (6:30 PM warm-up), BYC: All Groups**
- **Spring Advanced Choir Retreat - TBD**
- **Intermediate Festival – Saturday, May 18; time TBA**
- **8th Grade Promotion - Thursday, June 6; 6th & 7th Grade Band Students; time TBA**

## Grading

Music performance is an important component of our curriculum. *A student's absence from a required performance, with or without an explanation, will result in a substantial grading penalty for the student.* Students will also be graded on their improvement in the attributes listed below:

### Vocal Music Classes

- Participation/Effort/Behavior/Attitude – 20%
- Preparation & Practice/Vocal Technique Proficiency – 20%
- Music Theory/Sight Reading Skills – 20%
- Written Assignments - 10%
- Quizzes/Projects - 10%
- Performance Attendance – 20%

### Instrumental Music Classes

- Participation/Effort/Behavior/Attitude – 20%
- Instrument Proficiency (Playing Tests) – 20%
- Preparation (Practice Records) – 25%
- Written Assignments - 10%
- Performance Attendance – 25%

Each student is responsible for keeping a “Practice Log” on which they must record the amount of time practiced in a week. This log is to be signed by a parent and turned in every Monday. *Practice records are a major part of the students grade. They will receive a “C” or below if they don’t turn one in.*

## Concert Uniforms

- Intermediate band, orchestra, Cadet Choir, and Honors Choir students perform in white shirts with collars, black skirts or slacks (NO JEANS), all black shoes (NO LOGOS) and black socks, with other accessories supplied by the school.
- Advanced Choir, Band, and Orchestra students perform in school owned uniforms consisting of black skirts or tux pants, white tux shirts for choir, black dress shirts for band and orchestra, ties, and cummerbunds. Cost of cleaning, repair, and replacement will be taken from donations and/or fundraising money. Girls will also need a slip, and pantyhose. Boys also need a solid white undershirt, and black dress socks. All students need black dress shoes.
- All students will also have one concert with casual performance attire. Shirts will be purchased with choir donations and/or fundraising money. Students will need to provide blue jeans, and tennis shoes for that concert.

## Use of school owned instruments

A limited number of band and orchestra instruments are available, according to family need, for free loan during the school year to students enrolled in instrumental classes. Families are required to sign a loan agreement, accepting liability for loss or abuse of school owned instruments.

## Fundraising

Most field trips, and all extracurricular activities, are paid for by student's families, or through fundraising activities. Most students will be involved in a maximum of two fundraisers per year for department-sponsored activities. If you do not wish your child to be involved in fund raising, please call or send a note. As an option to fundraising, please consider making a donation to the Morrill Music Program.

## Parent Involvement

Family and community members are always needed in the music program, either as tutors, chaperones for field trips, treasurers for our fundraisers, etc. Please contact us if you can help out in any way. The students and staff at Morrill appreciate the time and energy spent by volunteers at our school.

## Class Placement

*Every child has "musical talent" and can be a success in the Morrill music program.* Most sixth and seventh grade students' participation in Morrill's music program become members of the Advanced Band, Orchestra or Choir by the time they reach eighth grade. A parent's expectation should be that any student willing to put forth moderate effort can be successful in music at Morrill.

Student placement, particularly for returning students, depends on the demonstrated maturity of the individual as well as on performance abilities. Discrepancies in performance skills can be lessened through cooperative learning and tutoring; a willingness to work for the good of the group, and by being supportive of classmates' efforts. These attributes are essential for any student wishing to be considered for membership in our advanced performing groups. These same attributes, incidentally, are much valued in the workplace. Participation in a musical ensemble is a valuable addition to any resume.

## Class Description

**Intermediate Band or Orchestra** is a place for both beginners and first year players to master the fundamentals of music theory and instrumental technique, along with instruction in instrument care and maintenance. Students will participate in three concerts at Morrill.

**Cadet or Beginning Choir** is designed to meet the needs of beginning singers. Emphasis is placed on music fundamentals, proper use and care of the voice, establishing the aural recognition and striving for the production of the world-class standard of children's choir sound, and daily rehearsal procedure. Students will look at music from an historical and cultural context. Students will participate in concerts at Morrill, and travel to see one professional performance off campus.

**Honors or Intermediate Choir** is designed for continuing seventh and eighth grade choir students. Study of music fundamentals is expanded to two and three part harmony. By the end of the year students should be able to identify and sight sing simple melodic patterns using solfege syllables, scale numbers, and note name, and clap simple rhythms using eighth, quarter, half and whole notes and rests. Students will participate in concerts at Morrill, and travel to see one professional performance off campus. Eighth grade students may choose to participate in the music department's festival trip to Anaheim.

**Advanced Band and Orchestra** offers mature and skilled players the opportunity to prepare and perform challenging string and band literature. Students are required to perform on several occasions during the school year, and will be offered enrichment activities, such as Solo/Ensemble festival, and CMEA Honor Orchestra membership. Students may also choose to participate in educational/recreational tours in the spring.

**Advanced Choir** is the top performing group for vocal music students. Membership is gained by audition and instructor approval only. Students that are accepted into the group have demonstrated adequate performance skills to prepare and perform challenging literature, and, more importantly, demonstrated work habits that indicate a willingness to spend as much time as necessary outside of class to master the material offered for rehearsal and performance. Students will participate in concerts at Morrill, and travel to see at least one professional performance off campus. Students may choose to participate in the music department's festival trip to Anaheim, although it is not required and is an extra-curricular activity.

# Classroom Materials

Students should come prepared to class each day with a pencil, and notebook with paper. In addition, any music the student has taken home should be returned each day, as well as any instrument accessories needed.

Suggested texts and music are provided and stored in the classroom.

Instrumental students must bring the following to class everyday:

- Instruments (If it's being repaired, I need a note form the parents)
- Instrument supplies (ex. reeds, neck strap, valve oil, rosin, etc.)
- Completed practice record (due every Monday)
- 3 ring binder with plastic sheet protectors to hold music
- Pencil (pens are never used unless notified in advance)

The following instrument cleaning accessories are needed for all instruments.

*Strings:* rosin, cloth, extra strings, shoulder rest (violin & viola); end-pin stop (cello & bass)

*Flute:* tuning rod, cloth (No Silver Polish)

*Clarinet & Saxophone\*:* reeds (strength #2 1/2 or higher), cork grease, swab; neck strap (sax)

*Trumpet, French Horn, Baritone, Tuba\*:* valve oil, cloth, tuning slide grease

*Trombone\*:* slide oil, tuning slide grease, cloth

*Percussion:* 2B drumsticks with wood tips (no plastic tips), snare drum or pad for home practice

**\*Brass instruments have a clear coat lacquer, and only need a polishing with a soft cloth. Use of household brass polish will destroy the finish!**

# Music Store Directory

**This list is provided as a convenience, and is not intended to be an endorsement of these vendors. Check the local phone directory for other listings.**

- Allegro Music - 3115 Walnut Ave., Fremont, 94538, (510) 794-3500
- Encore Music – 16 Corning Ave. #116, Milpitas, 95035, (408) 262-4881
- Kamimoto String Instruments – 609 N. Fourth St., San Jose, 95112, (408) 298-8168
- Music Village – 2971 Union Ave., San Jose, 95124, (408) 377-2504
- Musician's Warehouse – 2230 Quimby Rd., San Jose, 95122, (408) 270-2900
- Scott Cao Violins – 207 Kennedy Ave., Campbell, 95008, (408) 871-1881
- The Starving Musician – 3939 Stevens Creek Blvd., Santa Clara, 95051, (408) 554-9041

# Berryessa Music Boosters

Berryessa Music Booster, Inc., is a community group that decided to fundraise to continue to provide elementary school instrumental music instruction when Berryessa Union School District discontinued funding it in 1992. This is an energetic group serving a vital function; our middle school instrumental music programs couldn't function without a "feeder" program in the elementary schools. The group runs several events during the school year to fund elementary instrumental music, and provide instruments and music resources for all schools in the Berryessa Union School district. Boosters' meeting are held the third Monday of the month at 7:30 PM in the BUSD office, and the public is invited to attend.