

Sachem Central School District

JAMES J. NOLAN., SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

District Office for Music and the Fine Arts

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Chairpersons

Marjorie Ayasse Secondary Music (631) 471-1700
William Averso, Secondary Art (631) 471-1400

January 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Congratulations! Based on the recommendation of your child's music teacher and the decision of the Elementary Music Festival (EMF) committee, your child is being offered participation in Sachem's Fifty-Fourth Annual All District Elementary Music Festival. This is a distinct honor for your child that requires some careful consideration before accepting. Many students applied to participate but only a small group has been selected by the committee. Students have been placed on a waiting list and await your decision.

Please understand that although this is an honor, it is also a commitment. Participants are required to attend each and every rehearsal and be there for the entire time. There is such a limited amount of rehearsal time that there simply can be no exception to this rule. Each rehearsal will cover new ground rapidly and when a student misses there is no opportunity to catch-up.

It is for this reason that you must consider the enclosed dates very carefully. We understand that students have many commitments and this is why we are providing the parents with complete information, up-front. One of the hardest things that we ever have to do is notify a student that they have been removed from the festival due to an absence, particularly when the conflict was known in advance.

If your child cannot make each and every moment of each rehearsal, please do not accept this invitation. Again, there will be no exceptions made. This year we have spread the rehearsals across different days of the week so that if you must miss another activity it does not affect the same day for each rehearsal.

We are proud to offer this opportunity to your child and sincerely hope that they can participate. Thank you for your careful consideration and cooperation. An acceptance form has been included for you to return to your school music teacher.

Sincerely,



Bradley Johnson
Administrative Assistant for
Music and the Fine Arts

SACHEM DISTRICT OFFICE FOR MUSIC AND ART
EMF Parent/Guardian Information Guide

I. Rehearsal/ Performance Schedule

- All rehearsals and the performance will be held at Sachus High School East
- Thursday, February 16, 2012 5:00PM - 8:00PM
- Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:00PM - 8:00PM
- ***Thursday, March 1, 2012 (snow date) 5:00PM – 8:00PM***
- Monday, March 5, 2012 5:00PM - 8:00PM
- Tuesday, March 6, 2012 7:00PM - end of performance

II. Accepting and maintaining your spot in EMF

- If your child cannot make each and every moment of each rehearsal, please do not accept this invitation. There will be no exceptions made.
- Rehearsals begin at 5:00PM, your child must arrive early and be prepared to practice by that time. Dismissal will be at 8:00PM.
- Parent/Guardian are responsible for providing transportation to and from the rehearsals and performance.
- This is a festival experience and so it is very different from a school rehearsal. The students do not learn the music in the rehearsal; they must arrive at the first rehearsal already knowing the music. We reserve the right to remove a student from the performance if they are not adequately prepared to perform.

III. Cancellation of Rehearsals/ Performance

- If school is closed on the day of a rehearsal due to weather or other reasons, the rehearsal will be cancelled. In all other situations, we will be utilizing the district's Connect-Ed system to notify parent/guardian of rehearsal or performance cancellations. Only in the case of a cancellation of the first or second rehearsal, we will utilize the snow date.

SACHEM DISTRICT OFFICE FOR MUSIC AND ART
EMF Parent/Guardian Information Guide

PERFORMANCE

Sachem High School East Auditorium on March 6, 2012 at 7:00PM

1. All performers are to arrive at 6:30 PM. Children should not be dropped off earlier than this.
2. Attire: Boys: Suit or sport jacket with dress slacks, dress shirt, and tie.
Girls: Nice dress, but not floor length. No slacks or other casual wear.
3. **Due to limited seating, each student will be given three tickets for guests to attend the concert at the dress rehearsal.** We also ask that you make every effort to not bring infants and children under 12 to the performance. Children who arrive without parent/guardian will not be allowed in the auditorium.
4. Performers will be supervised in the holding areas until the completion of the concert.
5. We ask that members of the audience refrain from entering or leaving the auditorium while students are performing.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

In order to avoid crowding and congestion in the lobby, we are asking that parents follow the dismissal procedure outlined below at the conclusion of the concert.

CHORUS PARENT/GUARDIAN: At the end of the concert, please meet your child in the auditorium.

ORCHESTRA PARENT/GUARDIAN: At the end of the concert, please meet your child at Room C166 on the lower level. Please wait in the hallway between Rooms C153 and C159 and exit to your right.

BAND PARENT/GUARDIAN: At the end of the concert, please meet your child at Room C168 on the lower level. Please wait in the hallway between Rooms C181 and the storage closets and exit to your left.

Students will remain with the teaching staff on the risers in the event that they cannot locate their parent/guardian.

Your cooperation is appreciated in helping us to maintain a safe and orderly environment.

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Date _____

I give my son/daughter, _____, permission to participate in Sachem's Annual All District Elementary Music Festival and to attend the rehearsals at HS East on:

- Thursday, February 16, 2012 5:00PM - 8:00PM
- Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:00PM - 8:00PM
- *Thursday, March 1, 2012 (snow date) 5:00PM – 8:00PM*
- Monday, March 5, 2012 5:00PM - 8:00PM
- Tuesday, March 6, 2012 7:00PM Concert

I understand the obligations for participation and am reserving the rehearsal dates and the March performance on my calendar.

Please circle: **BAND** **CHORUS** **ORCHESTRA**

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Student ID # _____

Telephone Number (Home, Emergency Contact, cell #)

School Music Teacher

Please have your child return this permission slip to his/her music teacher as soon as possible.