

**To:** Students, Parents, Music Faculty, Coaches

**From:** Greg Kane, Music Department Lead Teacher  
Jim Simmons, Athletic Director



## Managing Time and Commitments for Success

We are all fortunate to be members of the Canandaigua City School District, a school that offers students outstanding athletic and music programs. Our students have access to an array of rigorous and engaging opportunities in both of these areas and many students participate in both programs at a very high level.

Our students are also fortunate because they are surrounded by adult professionals who work together to provide successful experiences. Canandaigua should be proud that we work to support the whole student as they strive to be the best scholars, athletes and musicians.

As each of us commits to helping students achieve success in high demand activities, a few overarching guidelines may help students balance responsibilities and expectations.

1. Communication is the most essential element for success in almost every activity.
  - Clear and timely schedules and expectations presented to students and families
  - Effective communication of schedule changes or additions
  - Advance communication to teachers and coaches from students about possible scheduling commitment problems
  - Personal face to face communication (Students should not send a message with a friend or rely on others.)
  - Open communication and consideration between teachers and coaches
2. Flexibility from all stakeholders is essential. (Students should never be made to feel that participation in one activity would diminish their commitment or potential in another.)
  - Sharing time when conflicts arise for practices and rehearsals (For example, each organization giving up 15 minutes if a rehearsal were to start at 6:30 and a practice to end at 7:00.)
  - Working pro-actively to reduce scheduling conflicts of concerts and contests
  - When conflicts do exist, advanced discussion must take place. Teacher, coach, student and parent must determine what is in the best interest of the student and group. Arriving at an acceptable solution ahead of time is necessary.
  - Increased sensitivity for critically important practices or rehearsals, such as the last practice before a game or the final practice before a concert.
3. Student responsibility and dedication
  - Students must understand that they have made important commitments to all teams and ensembles to which they belong. Athletic and music participation both require similar dedication.
  - The responsibility for communicating conflicts to coaches and teachers is in the hands of the student. Responsibility is a cornerstone of both musical and athletic participation.
  - Balancing commitments is a real-world life skill that will have many applications in college and throughout adult life.
  - Demonstrating good character is the foundation of student life in Canandaigua and students are always expected to accept their classmate's involvement and decisions.

#### 4. Shared commitment by all adults

- All adult stakeholders - teachers, parents and coaches - will share a commitment to not place a student in the middle of a conflict. Adults will instead help each unique student situation by considering the steps above.
- All adult stakeholders will demonstrate their commitment to the whole child by upholding our school district's mission statement
  - Providing rigorous opportunities in academics, the arts, and athletics;
  - Supporting the social, emotional, and developmental needs of all students;
  - Maintaining a focus on character development; and,
  - Engaging families and our community

While the above considerations are helpful, it is important to understand that not all conflicts can be avoided, no matter how much cooperation exists. The Athletic and Music departments are committed to working together to reduce and eliminate as many conflicts as possible.

Thank you to all of our students for their dedication and hard work, our teachers and coaches for their commitment to our students, and our parents for the support of their children's participation in Canandaigua's school activities!