MARCH 2026 VOLUME NO. 6

Get your Little Mermaid Jr. TICKETS!

ENCORE!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON MUSIC DEPARMENT

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

For more than 40 years, March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) for the observance of Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®), the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools and communities across the nation.

The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children—and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community, and to display the value that school music brings to students of all ages.

MIOSM and the events surrounding it are the ideal opportunities for increasing awareness of the benefits of high-quality music education programs in our nation's schools.





MUSIC AT MADISON

The 7th and 8th Grade Band
The 6th Grade Band
The Jazz Band
The 6th Grade Chorus
The 7th & 8th Grade Chorus
The Madison Singers
The Madison Orchestra
The String Ensemble
Broadway Babies Drama

IMPORTANT DATES

Here are some performances to mark in your family calendar!

- Little Mermaid Rehearsals/tTech week - see google classroom for schedule
- **Broadway Babies Show - The Little Mermaid Jr - 3/11 & 3/12 -6:30pm**
- Western Regional Music Festival - 3/6-3/7
- 6th Grade Chorus -5/5 @ 6pm
- Orchestra - 5/5 @ 7:30pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Spring Concert - 5/7 @7pm
- Grade 6 Band and Jazz Band Spring Concert- 5/12 @7pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Chorus & Madison Singers Spring Concert -5/14 @7pm
- Memorial Day Parade (7th and 8th Grade Band) - 5/25
- Music Festival Band and Orchestra Trip - 5/29
- Stepping Forth -TBA

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BAND TOGETHER

BAND AT MADISON

A NOTE FROM MR. THORNTON

Coming out of a very snowy winter, we're looking forward to some warmer weather! Band students should be finishing up their **Trimeter 2 test examples** and before you know it we will be getting ready for the Spring season events.

Western Regionals band students perform in the festival March 6th and 7th at Sacred Heart University, where they will get to play in a concert with guest conductors and band/jazz band students from over 20 middle schools.

Parents should have received an **Information Packet** (sent home with students) with information about the upcoming Spring Events such as the Spring Concerts, Memorial Day Parade, and Trills & Thrills Festival. The deadline for related materials and payment is **Friday, March 13th!**

March is also a good time of year for 7th/8th grade band students started preparing for the **Memorial Day Parade**, which is planned for May 25th, so they are ready to "March" down Main Street, Trumbull. See some strategies to help with memorization on the next page.



Anthony and Alejandro, Clarinet, Practicing "Russian Sailors' Dance"

MARCH BAND Students of the Month

6



LILY HURWITZ, ALTO & BARI SAX

7



AIDEN GOLRICK, TRUMPET

8



EMILY FLEAHMAN, FLUTE & PIANO

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BAND TOGETHER

BAND AT MADISON

SOME STRATEGIES FOR MEMORIZING PARADE MUSIC:



·**"Start Right Away"**
Don't try to "cram" at the last minute...start as soon as you get the sheet music! It takes time and repetition, so don't wait too long before you start working on the memorizing process.

·**"Chunking"**
Divide the music into smaller sections, such as 4-8 bar phrases, or even just one phrase at a time. Work on it until you've got it, and then go to the next one!

·**"Building from the Beginning"**
Some people learn best by "adding" measures one by one. Once you have 3 measures, try adding the fourth one and so on.

·**"Work Backwards"**
Another approach could be to start by memorizing the last few measures of a song, then add the previous phrase, working backward to the beginning. This ensures you know the end better as you get tired.

·**"No-Look" Practice"**
Play a phrase three times while looking at the sheet music, then try it without looking. If you make a mistake, look back, correct it, and repeat.

·**"Focus on the Tough Parts"**
As you become familiar with the music, do not waste time on long, easy notes. Focus on the faster passages, accidentals, and the transitions between sections.

·**"Listen and Sing"**
Listen to recordings of the music repeatedly. Sing along with YOUR PART to help internalize the melody, rhythm, and structure.

·**"Move to the Music"**
Don't forget to spend some time "multitasking" to be sure you can walk or march in place while playing! This builds muscle memory that holds up during movement. Practice marching around as you play in the yard or with friends!

·**"Identify Musical Patterns"**
Look for repeated sections or familiar patterns (scales, chords, rhythms) to save practice time.

·**"Duet"**
Play your memorized music with a friend or family member (same or different instrument parts) to build confidence and identify weak spots. See how much you can play together, keeping time.

·**"Perform for an Audience"**
Play your memorized music for an audience, whether playing for some friends, brother/sister/family...playing live and "in the moment" can help you check how well you know it, and help prepare for the actual performance



7th and 8th Grade Band/Memorial Day 2025

MARCH 2026

Harmony HIGHLIGHTS

CHORUS AT MADISON

VOLUME NO. 6

The JOY of Singing!

Singing brings immense joy and numerous health benefits by triggering the release of feel-good neurotransmitters like endorphins, dopamine, and oxytocin, which naturally enhance mood and reduce stress. It acts as a physical workout that improves lung capacity, reduces cortisol levels, and fosters social connection, particularly in group settings, boosting overall mental well-being.

Key Reasons Singing Brings Joy and Health Benefits:

- *Neurochemical Boost: Singing releases endorphins and oxytocin, which are associated with happiness, pleasure, and decreased stress.*
- *Stress Reduction: The act of singing, especially deep breathing, lowers cortisol levels, helping to alleviate anxiety and depression.*
- *Social Connection: Singing in groups, such as choirs, fosters a sense of belonging, bonding, and shared emotion, increasing overall life satisfaction.*
- *Physical and Cognitive Health: It acts as an aerobic activity that improves circulation, oxygenates the blood, and can even boost immune function.*
- *Emotional Expression: It provides a safe, therapeutic outlet for processing emotions, reducing feelings of being overwhelmed.*

Why Singing Feels So Good: The Science and Soul Behind the Benefits of Singing
Val Bastien
Oct 5, 2024
https://www.voiceyourselfsinging.com/

IT'S ALMOST SPRING! CHORUS FRIENDS ARE BLOOMING



MARCH CHORUS Students of the Month



6 ELLE YOON



7 ILIANA DASILVA



8 LUCA LOPEZ

GREAT MUSICIANSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND POSTITIVE ATTITUDE IN CLASS!!

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THE STRINGS BEAT

ORCHESTRA & STRING ENSEMBLE UPDATE

A NOTE FROM MR. ELKINS

As we head into **March**, we're hoping to leave the winter weather — and the many disruptions that came with it — behind us! For String Ensemble, it truly felt like a "Monday curse." We were only able to hold one Monday rehearsal this past month, with others canceled due to bus issues, weather, or holidays. We're looking forward (fingers crossed!) to a full month of uninterrupted Monday after-school rehearsals.

With March underway, our Spring Concert is quickly approaching.

The 6th Grade Orchestra will begin learning a new piece titled Carpathia, which musically tells the story of the ship that rescued survivors of the Titanic. The piece even includes sound effects that imitate the steam engines of the ship. This will be their "challenge piece" for the concert, as it is the most technically demanding work they will perform.

The 7th/8th Grade Orchestra has added some Bach to their repertoire — one of his famous Brandenburg Concertos. Interestingly, Bach wrote these concertos for a prince in hopes of securing a job or financial support. However, the prince never had them performed. Some historians believe the court orchestra may not have been capable of playing them, so the music sat unperformed for many years — even after Bach's death. Fortunately, the works were rediscovered and are now considered some of the finest orchestral music of the Baroque era. It's fascinating to think that Bach likely never imagined how famous these pieces would eventually become.

As students take on more music, please continue encouraging regular practice at home. With multiple pieces to prepare, it becomes even more important for students to focus on the specific sections that need the most attention.

Instrument Reminder

I've noticed an increase in instruments being left at school, which unfortunately means practice time at home is being missed. As outlined in the contract signed at the beginning of the year, students are expected to bring their instruments home daily. While occasional situations may require leaving an instrument at school, they should never be left over a weekend or holiday break. I will send reminders home if I notice a pattern of instruments being left behind.

Thank you for your continued support in helping students transport their instruments consistently.

INTRUMENTS SHOULD GO HOME EVERY DAY!



practice TIP

THE STRINGS BEAT PAGE 2

Perform at Home!

Practice is often a solitary activity, but playing for others is an important part of musical growth.



Playing for even one or two listeners:

- Provides an extra set of ears for feedback
- Helps students learn to manage performance pressure
- Encourages greater focus and confidence

It's also a wonderful opportunity for families to hear the progress students are making. Consider setting aside a few minutes to have your student perform a piece (or even just a section) and explain what they're working on. Sharing their music builds confidence and makes practice feel more meaningful.

STRINGS Students of the Month

6



I Like playing for my family.

David Braga

David is a beginning strings student who has done a fantastic job learning to play the viola this year. He is always on the ball with great posture, and ready to answer a question I ask the class. Great job!

7



"I like letting my viola speak through me."

Lucy Eisenman

Lucy has been a dediated viola student since sixth grade. She is very responsible and is always prepared in class. Good job!

8



"I like experiencing different cultures through music.

Charlie Westhelle

Charlie always puts forth her best effort in class, and is an excellent role model for her peers. Awesome job!

MARCH

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BROADWAY BABIES DRAMA

THE LITTLE MERMAID JR 2026

MEET THE CAST - PART 3

ARIEL



Caragh O'Neill

PRINCE ERIC



Oliver Bennett

SEBASTIAN



Iris Brady

URSULA



Diana Champagne

CARLOTTA



Juliet Amore

Stella Petrossi



KING TRITON'S PAGE / MAID

PILOT



Camden Richards

Davis Burke



CHEF LOUIS

SEAHORSE



Anabella Pontes

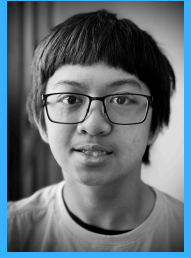
Kaitlyn Hull



ENSEMBLE

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!

SEA CAPTIANS / ENSEMBLE



Daniel Ilagan



Tyler Picart



Matthew Gallo-Gomez

MERSISTERS



BFF!

Left to right- Aydan, Molly, Charlotte, Sophie, Gigi and Olive!



MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
BROADWAY BABIES

THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11
AND THURSDAY MARCH 12
6:30PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

SCAN the QR code or go directly to Infinite Campus School Store to purchase.

***Students must be accompanied by an adult to attend the show. When you buy your tickets, make sure you buy one for the adult who is attending the show with you. No exceptions.**

***Tickets are $10 each, general admission, and non-refundable.**

MADISON BROADWAY BABIES IS PROUD TO BE A JAMIE HULLEY ARTS FOUNDATION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENT!

JAMIE HULLEY ARTS FOUNDATION

Thank you!

WWW.JAMIEHULLEYARTSFUND.ORG