OCTOBER 2026 VOLUME NO. 11

ENCORE!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON MUSIC DEPARMENT



PERSEVERANCE



~A steady persistence and firmness of purpose that keeps a person moving forward when things get hard.~

Perseverance is the continued effort to achieve a goal or finish a task despite facing difficulties, setbacks, or opposition.

Learning a musical instrument is a lifelong journey that demands immense **perseverance** because progress is rarely linear. Music students face constant hurdles, from the physical frustration of building muscle memory and finger dexterity to the mental strain of mastering complex music theory and rhythm. They must endure hundreds of hours of repetitive, solitary practice, frequently hitting frustrating skill plateaus where improvement seems impossible. It takes true **tenacity** to push through these moments of self-doubt and perform under the high pressure of live performances, knowing that a single public mistake requires the **resilience** to keep playing. Ultimately, a music student's success is determined less by raw talent and far more by their **grit** and willingness to stick with a piece of music or skill until it is mastered.

WHAT'S YOUR MOTIVATION TO PERSEVERE?

A GRADE? A PERFORMANCE? A COMPETITION? MAKING YOURSELF PROUD? SEEING HARD WORK PAYOFF? CONTRIBUTING TO AND SUPPORTING YOUR GROUP?

TO **PERSEVERE** MEANS TO KEEP TRYING AND NOT GIVE UP, EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE HARD OR TAKE A LONG TIME.

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



- Madison's Got Talent - Thursday, October 8th
- Broadway Babies Info Meeting and show announcement - October 15th
- Broadway Babies auditions videos due 10/23 and call-backs TBA
- Broadway Babies first rehearsal/parent meeting - 11/6
- Tree Lighting Rehearsal - November 19, 2:30-4pm/auditorium
- The String Fling - Tuesday November 24 at 6:30p.m.
- Trumbull Tree Lighting - Friday, December 4
- 7th & 8th Grade Chorus & Madison Singers Winter Concert - Tues. Dec. 8, 7pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Winter Concert- Thursday, Dec. 10, 7pm
- Western Regionals Auditions - Sat. Dec. 12 Location TBA
- Grade 6 Band and Orchestra - Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7pm
- Western Regional Music Festival - March 12th and 13th
- Broadway Babies Show - March 18th and 19th
- 6th Grade Chorus and Madison Singers - Tuesday, May 4 at 6:00pm
- Orchestra - Tuesday May 4 at 7:30pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Spring Concert - Thursday, May 6 at 7pm
- Grade 6 Band and Jazz Band - Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm
- 7th & 8th Grade Chorus & Madison Singers Spring Concert - Thursday, May 13 at 7pm
- Memorial Day Parade (7th/8th Grade Band) - Monday, May 31
- Music Festival Trip/ 7th&8th Grade Band and Orchestra - Friday, June 4
- Stepping Forth -TBA

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Harmony HIGHLIGHTS

CHORUS AT MADISON

MADISON SINGERS NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF MADISON SINGERS!

Vivian - Sadie - Ella - Rayne - Anna Clara
Gemma - Charlotte - Olivia - Grace
Camden - Matthew

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE IS POSTED IN GOOGLE CLASSROOM!

VOCAL HEALTH TIPS:

HYDRATE!





GET REST!



WASH HANDS!

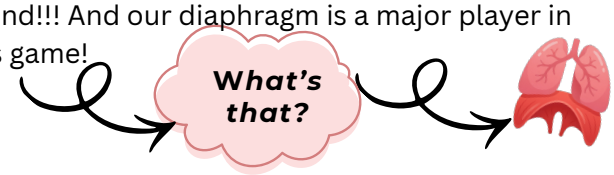
7TH & 8TH FULL CHORUS REHEARSALS BEGIN AT THE END OF OCTOBER

- Know the schedule.
- Be on time!
- Rehearsals are mandatory.
- Be sure to turn in work or get assignments of missed classes.
- Follow all full rehearsal standards.
- Contribute musically to the rehearsal.
- Be attentive and respectful.
- Listen and follow directions.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE WILL BE POSTED IN GOOGLE CLASSROOM!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHORUS...

Grade 6 Chorus:
The Voice Unit is well underway! The 6th graders are learning about how humans make sound and the role that air plays in that process. An exhale travels through the vocal cords on the way out of our bodies, causing them to vibrate and make sound! Those vocal folds get thin and thick, long and short and vibrate fast and slow to create the desired pitch! So much happens to make sound!!! And our diaphragm is a major player in this game!



7th & 8th Grade Chorus:
The 7th and 8th graders have started work on interval training with new warm-ups and have jumped right into concert music.

Fun fact:
Chorus students sing in many languages. Currently, the singers are working on a song called Durme Durme, which is sung in a combination of two languages Hebrew and Spanish called *LANDINO*.

*Historically, many Sephardic communities spoke **Ladino** (Judeo-Spanish), a blend of medieval Castilian, Hebrew, Arabic, and other regional languages.*
Sephardic Jews are descendants of the historic Jewish communities of Spain and Portugal who were expelled during the Inquisition in the late 15th century.

CHORUS Students of the Month OCTOBER

6



rosie dorsey

7



anna clara jarrin-brasil

8



grace caskin

GREAT MUSICIANSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND POSTITIVE ATTITUDE IN CLASS!!

BROADWAY BABIES

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA

DO YOU SING?

DO YOU ACT?

INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR STUDENTS

OCTOBER 15TH

THURSDAY 2:30-3:20

PLACE: TBA

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THE MEETING, CHECK YOUR GRADE LEVEL GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR INFORMATION THE NEXT DAY.

DO YOU DANCE?

ARE YOU CREATIVE?

SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT DAY!

2027 SHOW DATES
MARCH 18 & 19



This meeting is for any student interested in becoming part of our cast or crew this year. At the meeting, you will learn about the show, audition process, potential crew jobs and commitment.



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THE STRINGS BEAT

ORCHESTRA AT MADISON



Ask your 7th/8th grader to play their "musical signature" for you and also explain what it is! They may even be able to play your signature as well!

The year is off to a musical start in room 123! - a note from Mr. Elkins

Off to a Great Start!
We are off to a great start in orchestra! It has been wonderful to see students settling into the school year, making music together, and preparing for some exciting performances ahead.

7th & 8th Grade Orchestra
The 7th and 8th grade orchestras have now been introduced to all of their concert music, and there is already a lot of great music-making happening!

One of our pieces is especially exciting because it was written by a **Connecticut composer who will be visiting us in December** to work with the students on his piece. Having the opportunity to meet and work directly with a living composer is a unique experience for our students, and we are looking forward to it!

Students are also enjoying playing **Autumn from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons***, as well as **"Viva la Vida" by Coldplay**. "Viva la Vida" will be our combined, closing piece at this year's **String Fling**, bringing together musicians from **Hillcrest, Madison, and Trumbull High School**. It is always exciting to have so many string players together on one stage! We have also just begun music from **Captain America,** so as you can see, a very diverse program.



6th Grade Orchestra

Our 6th graders have acclimated very well to middle school and are already sounding like an orchestra! They have also begun working on their concert music.
One of their pieces is "Shoe Symphony," a fun and unusual piece where students use their feet as well as their instruments to create the music. They will perform this piece with the Hillcrest 6th graders at **String Fling**, so it will be a great opportunity for our newest musicians to perform alongside other string players from across town.
They have also started working on Skater's Waltz, which is a perfect piece for a holiday performance. We are looking forward to seeing how these pieces develop over the next few months!

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THE STRINGS BEAT

ORCHESTRA AT MADISON

🎶 String Ensemble

Our String Ensemble had its first meeting recently, and it was great to see returning students back along with some new members! String Ensemble is open to 7th and 8th grade students who would like additional opportunities to play and perform.

Later in the year, we are planning to take our ensemble on a tour of the elementary schools. We will perform for the younger students and hopefully encourage them to stick with their string instruments and continue playing when they reach middle school.

We could use a few more violinists and cellists, so please encourage your student to sign up if they are interested!

REMINDERS:

🏠 A Reminder About Instruments

As a reminder, you should be seeing your student bringing their instrument home regularly. For the most part, this seems to be happening, but there are still a few cases of cases (pardon the pun!) that seem to have decided to camp out at school. Hopefully, you are not only seeing instruments come home, but hearing them as well! Regular practice at home is an important part of helping students become confident musicians.

🎻 Looking Ahead

All in all, it has been a great first month of orchestra, and I am very proud of the way students have jumped into the new school year. We have lots of exciting music and opportunities ahead, and I am looking forward to another great month!



MEET THE COMPOSER: ANTHONY SUSI

Anthony Susi is a Connecticut composer, music educator, conductor, and clinician who has been teaching music in Connecticut since 1985. He has taught students from elementary school through college and has served as a guest conductor and adjudicator throughout Connecticut and the Northeast.

Mr. Susi has written **more than 70 published compositions and arrangements** for concert band, jazz band, marching band, and string orchestra. Many of his pieces are written specifically with student musicians in mind, making his music both challenging and accessible for young performers.

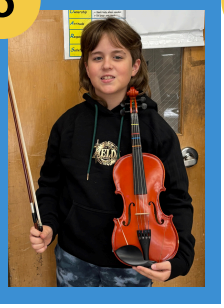
He earned his **Bachelor of Music Education from The Hartt School** and a **Master of Music Education from the University of Connecticut**. After more than three decades as a music educator, he retired from full-time teaching to pursue composing.

We are especially excited that Mr. Susi will be visiting Madison in December to work with our orchestra students on his music. What a great opportunity to meet the person who actually wrote the notes we are playing! 🎻



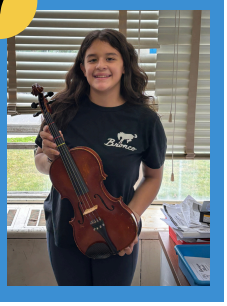
STRINGS Students of the Month OCTOBER

6



Leif Lindemann
violia

7



Catalina Andrade
viola

8



Jayden Lee
violin

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BAND TOGETHER
BAND AT MADISON

FROM MR. THORNTON

Congratulations to **Jazz Band students** on their successful auditions! In addition to all of the returning students, we welcome new additions Davis B. (guitar), Lea N. (piano), Zaac C. (piano), Jimmy R. (bass), Emilia S. (trombone), Sadie S. (flute), Joy Q. (flute), Emily C. (clarinet), Ethan A. (trumpet), Sislyn M.S. (trumpet), Ethan C. (sax) and Mukund B. (sax) to the group.

Unfortunately, the **Trumbull Classic** marching band competition was cancelled due to expected stormy weather, but MMS 8th grade band students were all set to play the National Anthem.

The **U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve Band** from New Orleans, Louisiana will be coming to Trumbull this month! We look forward to hosting them for an in-school concert for band students here at Madison, on Thurs. Oct. 8th.

Students interested in **Western Regionals** should take a look at the audition requirements and begin practicing. Registration is within the next month and auditions are in early December!

Band students will be working on **Test Examples** for trimester 1 from their method books, and before you know it we will be starting rehearsals for the **winter concerts!**



Lilian (flute) and friends at a summer Benson Boone concert



Cam (clarinet) and the "Bird Girls" from their Summer 2026 Musical

OCTOBER

BAND Students of the Month

6



EMILIA SUSANA,
TROMBONE

7



ETHAN CHEN,
ALTO SAXOPHONE

8



SEBASTIEN VALDEZ,
TRUMPET

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BAND TOGETHER

BAND AT MADISON

TAKING THE FIELD



*Some of Madison's 8th Grade band students started learning the **THSGEMB** show this summer!*



*8th Grade **WOODWINDS CLASS** playing the National Anthem*

*8th Grade **PERCUSSION** playing a cadence with marching snares, quads, and bass drums*



*8th Grade **BRASS CLASS** practicing for the Trumbull Classic*



Madison's got Talent!

KARE

OCTOBER 8TH!

7:00PM

*Must be accompanied by an adult.