NOVEMBER 2026 VOLUME NO. 12

ENCORE!

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON MUSIC DEPARMENT

THANKFUL GRATITUDE THANKFUL

Music is the quiet thread that holds our memories together, turning ordinary days into something felt rather than just lived. We are grateful for every melody that lifts our mood, speaks for our silent hearts, and brings a little more light to our journey. We are grateful for the teachers and peers we make music with!



A speical thank you to the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve Band for an amazing performace on October 8th!

See the last page for more pictures!



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

- Broadway Babies FROZEN Jr first rehearsal 2:30-4pm/parent meeting at 4pm - 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 - **FROZEN Jr.** - 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

MADISON SINGERS REHEARSALS FOR NOVEMBER

Wednesday 11/4 2:30-3:20
THURSDAY 11/5 2:30-4:00 OR 4:30?
Wednesday 11/11 2:30-3:20
Wednesday 11/18 2:30-3:20
Monday 11/23 2:30-3:20
Thanksgiving!

ALWAYS CHECK GOOGLE CLASSROOM!

VOCAL HEALTH TIP:

Avoid Infections and Illness:
Fingers and nails carry bacteria and viruses. Putting them in your mouth transfers germs that lead to colds, sore throats, or respiratory infections. Sickness, mucus, and inflammation directly ruin vocal cord performance.



Don't bite your nails!

7TH & 8TH FULL CHORUS REHEARSAL SCHEDULE WITH PIANIST

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE IS POSTED IN GOOGLE CLASSROOM!

Nov. 5	Thur	MS afterschool	2:30-4:00 (in 125)
Nov. 12	Thur	D2 per 3	9:22-10:08
Nov. 19	Thur	D1 per 2	8:33-9:19
Dec. 2	Wed	D2 per 4	10:11-10:57
Dec. 3	Thur	MS afterschool	2:30-4:00 (aud)
Dec. 7	Mon	D1 per 6	12:55-1:41
		MS per 7	1:44-2:30
Dec. 8	Tues	CONCERT	7:00pm

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHORUS...

Grade 6 Chorus:
The Voice Unit was a huge success. Students learned about their voice, how humans produce sound, how singers shape thier sound and how to use this information to make the full chorus sound it's best together.
Currently, we are now learning about **DYNAMICS** markings in music, what they mean and how to apply them to our singing.



7th and 8th Grade Chorus

A **madrigal** is a traditional Renaissance **a cappella** song featuring multiple independent voice parts, and it is a crucial part of choral training because it teaches singers independent part-singing and creative vocal expression without relying on an instrument.

DEFINITION:
A Cappella
A cappella is a style of vocal music performed strictly without instrumental accompaniment, relying entirely on the human voice to produce both the melodies and harmonies.

CHORUS Students of the Month NOVEMBER

6



Skyler Almonte

7



Tessa Grabowski

8



Lizzie Rorick

GREAT MUSICIANSHIP, LEADERSHIP AND POSTITIVE ATTITUDE IN CLASS!!

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BROADWAY BABIES

THE 2027 SHOW IS... FROZEN JR!

MADISON GOES TO ARENDELLE!

The announcement was made on October 14 to the biggest crowd yet to show up for a Broadway Babies information meeting. Over 100 kids packed into 125 to hear the show for 2027 and to learn more about the audition process. Ms. Saunders and Mrs. Cerulli have already been working for months and were thrilled to share their excitment with the theater kids at Madison. Auditions were due October 23 and after many hours of reviewing videos and holding call-backs, we are going to have an amazing cast and crew!
This is going to be a very special show! Get your tickets when they go on sale - it is sure to sell out!



Over 120 kids turned out for the information meeting and show announcement!



SHOW DATES:

Thursday March 18th
and
Friday March 19th

FIRST REHEARSAL
Friday, November 6th
2:30-4pm for all cast memebers,
*4:00pm Parent/Guardian Meeting
in the auditorium!!!

A monthly Rehearsal Schedule will be posted in the Broadway Babies google classrooms - Cast and Crew.

Thank you to everyone who tried out!

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Madison's got Talent!

















YOU ROCK!

Thank you to everyone who participated and attended!





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THE STRINGS BEAT

ORCHESTRA AT MADISON

ORCHESTRA HIGHLIGHTS

We have been busy in orchestra! Students have learned all of their concert pieces and are now working hard to polish them, improve their musical expression, and prepare for our upcoming performances. We are looking forward to sharing all of our hard work with you at our concerts on November 24th and December 15th! We've also been having some Halloween fun by playing and listening to spooky, Halloween-themed music. It's been a great way to bring some seasonal excitement into our music-making!

IMPORTANT CONCERT REMINDERS

Orchestra Concert Dress Policy

A quick reminder, especially for our 6th-grade families: middle school concert attire is likely different from what students wore for elementary school performances. We expect students to dress formally for concerts.

Acceptable attire: ALL BLACK (formal)

- Dress pants with a button-down shirt or blouse
- Skirts (below the knee when seated) or dresses
- Dress shoes (NO SNEAKERS OR SLIDES)
- Black socks if wearing loafers

Not permitted: T-shirts or jeans, sweatpants, sneakers, slippers/slides or UGGS

Thank you for helping students look concert-ready!



String Ensemble

Orchestra Concert Attendance Policy

We will have three required concerts this year. Unless there is an extreme circumstance or emergency, students are expected to participate. An orchestra is a team, and every musician plays an important role! Concert participation is also a major part of each student's grade.

- What counts as an extreme circumstance? An unavoidable emergency or a significant conflict, such as a family reunion planned well in advance. Routine activities, such as soccer practice, do not qualify as extreme circumstances.
- Excused absences: Unavoidable conflicts require a parent/guardian note in advance, unless the absence is marked “absent excused” in Infinite Campus on the day of the concert (for example, due to illness). Students with approved excused absences will not earn a grade for the concert, but will also not be penalized, meaning it will not affect their current grade.
- Unexcused absences: Students may complete a make-up assignment for half credit only.

Thank you for helping your child prioritize these important musical experiences!

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THE STRINGS BEAT

ORCHESTRA AT MADISON

TAKE NOTE!

STRING FLING

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24TH 6:30PM AT TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL



STRING FLING INFORMATION

String Fling is a special combined concert featuring the Madison Middle School, Hillcrest Middle School, and Trumbull High School orchestras! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to collaborate with other musicians and experience the excitement of performing as part of a larger musical community. It also allows them to hear other ensembles perform, and see what they can be part of in the High School. For this, we ask that all students plan to stay for the entire performance, which should be no more than an hour.

- 6th Grade: Students will collaborate with the Hillcrest 6th-grade orchestra students.
- 7th and 8th Grade: Students will collaborate with the Trumbull High School orchestra.
- All grades: Students will also showcase two pieces performed by their own Madison orchestra!

Pre-concert rehearsals and drop-off times for String Fling.
Students will need to arrive early for rehearsals before the concert. We are finalizing the schedule and will communicate specific drop-off instructions as soon as they are confirmed. For planning purposes, please anticipate the following arrival times:

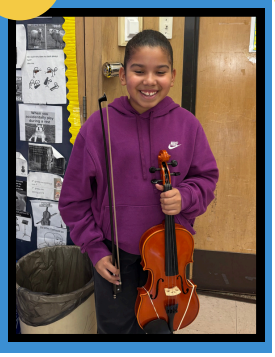
- 7th and 8th Grade: 4:15 PM
- 6th Grade: 5:00 PM

Please keep these anticipated times in mind as you plan transportation.
More details will follow!

Note: Beginning Strings Students will not participate in the String Fling, but will take part in the Madison Winter concert in December.

STRINGS Students of the Month November

6



Amanda Sandoval Santos, violin

7



Lea Nahm, violin

8



Diana Chanpagne viola

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BAND TOGETHER

BAND AT MADISON

FROM MR. THORNTON

The **U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve Band** from New Orleans, Louisiana came to Madison, on Thurs. Oct. 8th, 2026. Their band and brass band performed a fun program of music and the crowd really got into it! Soloists working the crowd, a medley of the armed forces service songs, and other selections demonstrating outstanding musicianship all contributed to a great concert.

Students auditioning for **Western Regionals** should be working on their audition material Auditions are in early December! Students are encouraged to work with private lessons teachers, stay for extra help lessons, and play a few test runs of the audition material.

Band students will be working on their winter **concert music** at this point and should be practicing regularly to get ready. Instruments should be going home and practice sessions should be at least 20 minutes at a time or longer.

Students will have a small number of **in-school rehearsals** which are mandatory. Students should check the rehearsal schedule and be sure to bring their instrument on those days. They should also be checking in with their teachers to turn in any assignments.

Parents are reminded that students will need **concert attire** for the upcoming winter performances. Band students wear "concert black and white". Black pants/slacks/long skirt, with a dressy white shirt/blouse/top. Guys should wear a tie. Appropriate shoes to match...no sneakers! Parents may want to check that the concert clothes still fit!

Once again we have been invited to play in the town of Trumbull's **Tree Lighting Ceremony** scheduled for **Friday, December 4th.** We will be assembling a **Holiday Band** including Jazz Band students as well as interested students from the concert bands...see Mr. Thornton for sheet music including a book of carols and a song for Hanukkah. A rehearsal for the event will be afterschool Thursday, Nov. 19th. This is a great opportunity to perform in a community event. Students should dress warmly for the outdoor performance and are encouraged to show their holiday spirit!

Wishing everyone a **Happy Thanksgiving**!

Marine Corps musicians performing as a Brass Band in the MMS auditorium!





*Many of the 6th grade advanced flutes, clarinets, saxes, and mallet players wearing Pink...the **Pink Out** was Friday, October 23rd*

NOVEMBER



BAND Students of the Month

6



SISLYN M. STIMPSON, TRUMPET

7



GABRIEL MARTINS, TRUMPET

8



CAL VALLANCE, TROMBONE

U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve Band

Instrumentalists and vocalists who answer the calling to become a Marine have the opportunity to enlist through the Musician Enlistment Option Program (MEOP). Performing throughout the continental United States and internationally, Marine musicians serve as musical ambassadors of the Marine Corps.















