



HOPKINS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

600 Driscoll Road, Fremont, CA 94539 ~ (510) 656-3500, ext. 38023

Gregory Conway, Director of Instrumental Music

HOPKINS JHS BAND & ORCHESTRA REGISTRATION INFORMATION 2012-2013 (for incoming 7th Grade Students)

January, 2012

Dear 6th Grade Parents,

As the Director of Instrumental Music at Hopkins Jr. High School, I would like to invite all of you and your students to join the music program at Hopkins next year. The music department at Hopkins is very active and performs at a very high level. Last year the ensembles from Hopkins received the highest possible “Unanimous Superior” awards at the CMEA Band & Orchestra Festivals, and also received 1st Place awards at the Music in the Parks Festival in Anaheim, CA. *Even students who do not currently play a band or string instrument may begin learning and participate in the Hopkins Music Program in 7th grade.* There are many reasons to participate in the outstanding music program at Hopkins in 7th grade. For Instance:

Did you know that students in “top quality” instrumental music programs at school score on average **22% better in English and 20% better in Math** on standardized tests (such as STAR) than students not enrolled in music classes? This statistic is true for both low-performing schools and very high-performing schools (according to a study conducted by the University of Kansas)

Did you know that students in music classes in school tend to have higher scores on the SAT? This has been shown in numerous studies dating back to the 1990’s. In the most recent report from The College Board (administrator of the SAT), students in music classes scored on average **57 points higher on the verbal portion and 43 points higher on the math portion** of the test when compared with students not in music classes.

Did you know that colleges and universities specifically look for music classes on high school transcripts when processing applications? Colleges and universities value music classes very highly because they are one of the only classes that show that a student has developed skills in group work, multi-tasking, spatial reasoning, mathematics, leadership, community spirit, and many other areas.

Did you know that Hopkins Jr. High School has one of the **strongest, largest, and highest quality music programs in the Bay Area and in California**? The band program has been one of the best, consistently achieving the highest possible ratings at festivals since the mid-1980’s. The orchestra program, although relatively new, has already also achieved a very strong reputation. The Hopkins Advanced Orchestra was the “best middle school string orchestra” in California in Spring 2008 and received a **perfect score of “100”** at the Anaheim festival in Spring 2010. The Hopkins Wind Ensemble was **one of 2 middle school bands in the state selected to perform at the California Music Educators Association State Conference in March 2010.** The Hopkins Advanced Orchestra was the **only Orchestra selected to perform at the California All-State Music Education Conference in February 2012.**

(over)

Taking music in junior high school is much different than elementary school. First, the classes meet **every day**, during the school day (for approximately 1 hour per day). Because of this, the students are able to progress at a very rapid pace through the performance material. Students have many more performance opportunities in junior high, and have the chance to play a wide range of styles of music. At Hopkins, there are 5 classes that meet during the school day. These and the supplemental music classes offered before and after school are explained thoroughly in this packet. I have tried to create a place for everyone who is interested in music, regardless of their experience level. ***IT IS VERY POSSIBLE TO TAKE MUSIC IN 7TH/8TH GRADE AND STILL MEET & EXCEED ALL COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ANY UNIVERSITY!***

Music classes at the junior and senior high school levels can have many positive effects on a student. **Most college and universities specifically look for music classes on a student's transcript during the admissions process, sometimes even before looking at "grade point average."** However, this is only one of many reasons for taking music. Music allows the students to have a greater appreciation for the arts, while also teaching them skills that they may not otherwise get in school. Students who take music are proven to do better on standardized tests, for example, because of the complex learning and physical skills needed to play an instrument well in an ensemble. *I have attached several handouts related to the importance of studying music in school, and I would encourage you to read through them.*

On **Tuesday, February 7th**, Hopkins Jr. High School will be hosting an "Incoming 7th Grade Music Parent Information Night" at 7 p.m. in Room M-1. If you are considering participating in the music program at Hopkins, I would encourage you to attend this event. A flyer with specific information about this is attached as part of this packet.

Many students plan to take music, but are excluded from the program because it is not selected correctly on their school elective sheet. ***Students must list music as their "1st Choice" to be enrolled in music classes.*** Students who list music as a later choice **will not** be enrolled in music.

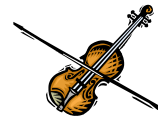
Also, **students interested in music classes at Hopkins must return the attached "Music Class Intent Form" along with their 7th grade registration packet.** This will assure that students are placed into the correct level of band or orchestra. The registration procedure is explained in detail on the following pages.

Please take the time to read through the music course descriptions listed on the back of this handout along with the other information in this packet, and talk about them with your son or daughter. If you decide to participate in this program, please follow the registration procedure as listed in this packet. If you have any questions about the music classes or about the program in general, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

Musically,

Gregory Conway
Director of Instrumental Music
Hopkins Jr. High School
(510) 656-3500, ext. 38023
gconway@musicathopkins.com

Why Take Music????



There are many, many reasons for taking music classes at school. Here is a partial list of some of the more compelling reasons.

1. The U.S. Department of Education lists the arts as subjects that college-bound middle and junior high school students should take, stating “Many colleges view participation in the arts and music as a valuable experience that broadens students’ understanding and appreciation of the world around them. It is also well known and widely recognized that the arts contribute significantly to children’s intellectual development.”
2. The College Board (administrator of the SAT exam) identifies the arts (including music) as one of the 6 basic academic subject areas students should study in order to succeed in college.
3. According to The College Board in 2006, students with coursework/experience in music performance and music appreciation scored higher on the SAT: students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 43 points higher on the math than did students with no music participation.
4. A separate study concluded in 2000 of more than 10 million high school students found that:
 - Students who take arts classes (including music) have higher math, verbal, and composite SAT scores than students who do not take arts classes.
 - As the number of arts classes increases, so do SAT scores.
 - 4 or more years of arts classes correspond to the strongest relationship with higher SAT scores.
 - Music history, theory, and appreciation have the strongest relationship with higher math SAT scores.
5. Students in “top quality” instrumental music programs at school score on average 22% better in English and 20% better in Math on standardized tests (such as STAR) than students not enrolled in music classes? This statistic is true for both low-performing schools and very high-performing schools (according to a study conducted by the University of Kansas in 2007.)
6. Physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants. He found that 66% of music majors who applied to medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. 44% of biochemistry majors were admitted.
7. In an analysis of U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students in 1999, researchers found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music (band and orchestra) over the middle school years show “significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12.” Differences in those who are involved with instrumental music vs. those who are not is more significant over time.
8. According to Grant Venerable, author of “The Paradox of the Silicon Savior”, the “very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley are, nearly without exception, practicing musicians.”
9. In an 11-year study (1987-1998) on the effects of involvement in youth organizations (arts, athletics, or community-based), compared to the National Educational Longitudinal Sample (a general sampling of students), students involved in arts based groups (including music) were:
 - Over 4 times more likely to participate in community service.
 - 8 times more likely to win a community service award.
 - Nearly twice as likely to read for pleasure.
 - Over 3 times more likely to be elected to a class office in schedule.
 - 3 times more likely to win a school attendance award.
 - 4 times more likely to participate in a math or science fair.
 - Over 4 times more likely to win an award for an essay or poem.
 - 2 times more likely to win an academic achievement award.
 - 4 times more likely to win schoolwide attention for academic achievement.

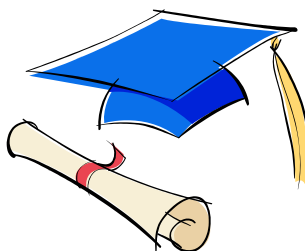
For more stats and figures visit: <http://www.menc.org/resources/view/why-music-education-2007>

*Sources: MENC-The National Association for Music Education “Why Music Education?” 2007
& www.schoolmusicmatters.com*

WHAT DO UNIVERSITIES SAY ABOUT MUSIC?



1. The College Board, the administrator of the SAT Test, identifies the arts (including music) as one of the 6 area that students should study in order to succeed in college.
2. University admissions officers clearly state that students who participate in arts classes continually through high school have an advantage over students who do not when applying for high-end schools.
3. During the admissions process, colleges and universities look for students who “stand out” and who have something to offer to the campus. Music students who have played for at least 3 years in high school ensembles are automatically placed in this category (assuming they have met all other university entrance requirements).
4. Continuous enrollment in music is valued by colleges and universities much more highly than extra years of foreign language classes. Students having to choose between music and extra language classes at the Junior High level should **ALWAYS** choose music according to admissions officers of several universities. Language requirements can be met in high school along with music classes.
5. Playing an instrument well can help a student get into a university if they are willing to play in the university’s ensembles. Students do not have to be a music major to take advantage of this. All universities have to have enough musicians on each instrument to feature high-level performing groups. University band and orchestra directors will find a way for a talented student/musician to get into a school.
6. Having music on a student’s transcript all through high school shows that a student has developed skills in group work, multi-tasking, spatial reasoning, mathematics, leadership, community spirit, and many other areas. These types of skills cannot be found all together in any other class.



Hopkins Junior High School – Music Dept. Course Descriptions 2012-13

Please read through these courses and fill out the attached form.

BAND

Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble (Advanced)

Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble are for 8th graders who have played 3-4 years on their instrument. **Each is a full year elective, and the student must have instructor consent to enroll.** Special accommodations can be made for 7th graders who are **gifted** on their instrument. Both the Symphonic Band and the Wind Ensemble perform at very high levels and guide students to a new level of musicianship. Students have many performance opportunities during the year. They will also travel to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) for a music festival, as well as participate in a local CMEA Band Festival. *Wind Ensemble is a very advanced band class which performs at the highest level possible for middle school students.*

Concert Band (Intermediate)

Concert Band is designed for 7th and 8th graders with 1-3 years experience on their instrument. **It is a full year elective.** Students must have completed up to Page 20 of STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE, BOOK 1 (*or have director's approval*). **Students currently in the Hopkins Advanced Elementary Band are automatically qualified to enroll in this class.** The class concentrates on teaching students the many aspects of performance and playing in band on a daily basis by using method books and performance literature. Students will perform in at least 2 concerts on campus during the year, plus travel to the CMEA Band Festival and participate in a festival as part of a day trip to Great America in Santa Clara, CA.

Beginning Band

Beginning Band is for 7th and 8th graders who have either: 1. No experience on a band instrument, or 2. Did not reach Page 20 in Standard of Excellence, Book 1. **It is a full year elective.** Students are introduced to the instruments of the band and will learn the basics of their new instrument and basic music theory. Students will perform in 2 concerts on campus during the school year. ***Students who only have experience on PIANO should register for this class.***

STRING ORCHESTRA

Advanced Orchestra

Advanced Orchestra is for 8th graders who have played 3-4 years on their instrument, and at least one year of orchestra at Hopkins. **It is a full year elective, and the student must have instructor consent to enroll.** Special accommodations can be made for 7th graders who are **gifted** on their instrument. The Advanced Orchestra performs at a high level and guides students to a new level of musicianship. Students have many performance opportunities during the year. They will also travel to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) for a music festival, as well as perform for a CMEA Festival in the spring. **Full Orchestra** will be made up of members of this ensemble and selected members of Wind Ensemble. Full Orchestra rehearsals will take place Mondays approximately twice per month before school from 7:15 – 8:10 a.m. ***In Spring 2008, the Advanced Orchestra was the "Best Middle School String Orchestra" in California!***

Intermediate Orchestra

The Intermediate Orchestra is open to both 7th and 8th graders who have played Violin, Viola, Cello, or String Bass (NOT electric bass!) for at least 2 years (*or who have director's approval*). The class will focus on improving technique through the use of method books, large ensemble work through a wide variety of literature, and the opportunity to participate in small string ensemble groups as well. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the year including a CMEA Festival in the spring and a festival as part of a day trip to Great America in Santa Clara, CA. **It is a full year elective.**

JAZZ (Requires concurrent enrollment in band or orchestra.)

Jazz Ensemble (Advanced)

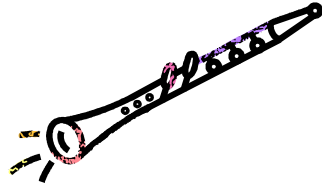
Jazz Ensemble is open **only to Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble/Advanced Orchestra members** by audition. It meets before school every day from 7:15-8:10am. Instruments included are: Alto, Tenor, and Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Electric Bass, Piano, Vibraphone, and Drum Set. It is a full year elective, and they perform at many school events as well as at least 3 on campus concerts. The Jazz Ensemble also travels to several local jazz festivals, as well as Anaheim/Disneyland for the Music in the Parks Festival. Auditions for this class will be held in early September.

Jazz Workshop (Intermediate)

Jazz Workshop is open **only to Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Orchestra members.** It meets after school two days per week from 2:30 – 3:10 pm. Instruments included are: Alto, Tenor, and Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Electric Bass, Piano, Vibraphone, and Drum Set. Other instruments may be accepted on a case-by-case basis. It is a full year elective, and they perform at school events as well as at least 2 on campus concerts. The Jazz Workshop also travels to local jazz festivals. Auditions may be required for this class and registration for this class will take place in the fall.

Hopkins JHS Music Department Presents:

Junior High Music Scheduling Information Night 2012-2013



For all 6th grade students currently in
Beginning, Intermediate, or Advanced
Elementary Bands or Orchestras

AND

6th grade students interested in participating in
music classes at Hopkins JHS

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Hopkins Jr. High School

7 p.m. – Room M-1



Topics include: Hopkins Music Classes offered for 2012-2013, scheduling options for music students, how to register for music classes at Hopkins, audition information for “advanced” Hopkins ensembles, & the many benefits of participating in music throughout junior high and high school

Youth Symphonies and the Hopkins JHS Orchestra Program



Many string students (violin, viola, cello, and bass) each year play in outside youth symphonies in the area in addition to playing in the Hopkins Orchestras. These two programs are designed to complement each other and work together to provide the most complete musical education for students possible. All youth symphonies (such as California Youth Symphony, El Camino Youth Symphony, San Jose Youth Symphony, Oakland Youth Orchestra, etc.) strongly recommend (and many even require) that their students play in their school's orchestra, especially if their school has a "high quality" orchestra program (as Hopkins does). Here's why:

School orchestra classes meet every day. This allows students to spend time focusing on musical "ensemble techniques". Perfecting these techniques in a school group allows the student to have much more success in outside groups like youth symphonies. Youth symphony directors do not want to spend their limited weekly rehearsal time working on these concepts – they assume that the students are working on these in their school groups. These concepts include the following:

- Intonation/Playing in Tune (Adjusting to the group)
- Ensemble Bowing Techniques and Uniformity
- Musical Style and Articulations
- Sight-reading (Performing music that has not been previously rehearsed)

The Hopkins Orchestra program is designed to provide a different, yet equally valuable musical experience for students than they may get in a Youth Symphony. The Hopkins Orchestra provides the following for students in addition to the above:

- The ability to perform advanced Junior High and High School orchestra literature.
- Performances that are judged by professional musicians and competitions against other school orchestras and music groups.
- Daily rehearsals providing the opportunity for students to "perfect" pieces of music with a very high level of musicianship.

Youth Symphonies provide these valuable, yet different opportunities for students:

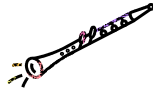
- The opportunity to play with students from throughout the area.
- The ability to perform "Full Orchestra" literature, featuring wind instruments and percussion as well as strings.
- The challenge of learning difficult music in a relatively short amount of rehearsal time.
- The opportunity to perform in very high-quality performance halls (in most cases).

The Hopkins Orchestra Program qualifies as a "high quality" program. There are two levels of string orchestra classes. The **Hopkins Intermediate Orchestra** (mostly 7th grade) is considered to be one of the best Middle School String Orchestras in the Bay Area. This group has received the highest-possible "Unanimous Superior" ratings at California Music Educators Association (CMEA) Orchestra Festivals each year since 2009. They have also earned 1st Place awards at music competitions numerous times, often competing against other schools' "advanced" orchestras.

The **Hopkins Advanced Orchestra** (mostly 8th grade) rates among the best in California and the United States. The Advanced Orchestra has consistently received "Unanimous Superior" ratings at CMEA Festivals since the class began in 2006, often receiving the highest rating of any group performing at the festival. They have received 1st Place awards at the Anaheim/Disneyland Music Festival each year since 2006 as well, also often receiving the highest rating at the festival of any Middle School or High School group. In 2010, the Hopkins Advanced Orchestra received a "perfect" score of "100" at the Anaheim/Disneyland Festival – only the 3rd group to do so since 1995. Many festival adjudicators and clinicians have referred to the Hopkins Advanced Orchestra as the "best middle school orchestra I've ever heard". The Hopkins Advanced Orchestra was recently selected as a Featured Performer at the 2012 California All-State Music Education Conference.

All Hopkins Orchestra students are strongly encouraged to participate in these local Youth Symphonies. More information about these groups is available from the Hopkins Music Director. Students who participate in Youth Symphonies are also strongly encouraged to participate in the Hopkins Orchestra Program. Together, these two programs can provide the best musical experience possible for a string student!

How to Enroll in Hopkins JHS Music Classes 2012-2013 (For Incoming 7th Grade Students)



For Band Students:

Students who have been playing their instrument for at least 2-3 years, and who have completed at least through pg. 20 of *Standard of Excellence, Book 1* OR who are currently in the ***Advanced Elementary Band*** should register for **“Band”** as their first choice elective. All 7th grade students will be automatically placed in Concert Band. Students wishing to audition for Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble will need to contact Mr. Conway at Hopkins to arrange a time.

“Band” instruments are as follows: flute, oboe, clarinet, bass clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French Horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, percussion.



For Orchestra Students:

Students who have been playing their instrument for at least 2 years OR who are currently in the ***Intermediate OR Advanced Elementary Orchestras*** should register for **“Orchestra”** as their first choice elective. All 7th grade students will be automatically placed in Intermediate Orchestra. Students wishing to audition for Advanced Orchestra will need to contact Mr. Conway at Hopkins to arrange a time.

“Orchestra” instruments are as follows: violin, viola, cello, string bass.



For Beginning Band Students:

Students who have not played a band instrument, OR who have not completed at least through pg. 20 of *Standard of Excellence, Book 1*, should register for **“Beginning Band”** as their first choice elective. Students who have played piano but no other instruments will be placed into this class.

All incoming 7th grade music students who list BEGINNING BAND, BAND, or ORCHESTRA as an elective choice will also need to fill out the “Hopkins JHS Music Class Intent Form” and return it with their registration packet.

University of California: Freshman Admission High School Course Requirements (as of January 2012)

Subject Requirement ("A-G" Coursework)

To satisfy this requirement, you must complete the 15 yearlong high school courses listed below. These courses are also known as the "a-g" subjects. At least seven of the 15 yearlong courses must be taken in your last two years of high school.

California High School Students

The courses you take to fulfill the Subject Requirement must be certified by the University as meeting the requirement and must be included on your school's [UC-certified course list](#).

Required "A - G" Courses
a History/Social Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED Two years of history/social science, including one year of world history, cultures and geography; and one year of U.S. history or one-half year of U.S. history and one-half year of civics or American government.
b English – 4 YEARS REQUIRED Four years of college-preparatory English that include frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. No more than one year of ESL-type courses can be used to meet this requirement.
c Mathematics – 3 YEARS REQUIRED, 4 YEARS RECOMMENDED Three years of college-preparatory mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced algebra and two- and three-dimensional geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or all of this requirement, as may math courses taken in the seventh and eighth grades that your high school accepts as equivalent to its own math courses.
d Laboratory Science – 2 YEARS REQUIRED, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED Two years of laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in two of these three foundational subjects: biology, chemistry and physics. Advanced laboratory science classes that have biology, chemistry or physics as prerequisites and offer substantial additional material may be used to fulfill this requirement. The final two years of an approved three-year integrated science program may be used to fulfill this requirement.
e Language Other than English – 2 YEARS REQUIRED, 3 YEARS RECOMMENDED Two years of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture.
f Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) – 1 YEAR REQUIRED A single yearlong approved arts course from a single VPA discipline: dance, drama/theater, music or visual art.
g College Preparatory Electives – 1 YEAR REQUIRED One year (two semesters), in addition to those required in "a-f" above, chosen from the following areas: visual and performing arts (non-introductory level courses), history, social science, English, advanced mathematics, laboratory science and language other than English (a third year in the language used for the "e" requirement or two years of another language).

From: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements/a-g-requirements/index.html>

The University “Foreign Language Requirement”, Music Classes and How They Work Together:

Many/most high level colleges and universities in the United States have some form of a Foreign Language requirement for admission. However, sometimes there is a perception that students in music classes will have a difficult time meeting this requirement. Below is some information related to this.

The requirement for the University of California system regarding Foreign Language is as follows:

Two years (three years recommended) of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture. American Sign Language and classical languages, such as Latin and Greek, are acceptable.

There are many ways that this requirement can be met.

- It is very possible to take 3 years of language classes in **high school** and still take band or orchestra from 7th through 12th grade. Hundreds of students at Mission San Jose High School do this each year! “Band” students are allowed an extra elective class in 9th-12th grade at MSJHS due to the way the marching program is structured to meet P.E. requirements. “Orchestra” students have to adjust their schedule slightly in 10th grade, but are still easily able to complete 3 years of language classes in grades 10-12.
- Students who are considered “bilingual” may not have to take language classes at all (or may take fewer of them). These students can often “test out” of the requirement using an AP Test or an SAT Subject Test. See the attached information from UC Berkeley for more details on this. There are similar systems in place for most universities.
- Some students can meet the language requirement by taking classes outside of school for High School Credit. There is a list of approved schools on the FUSD website here:

<http://www.fremont.k12.ca.us/cms/lib/CA01000848/Centricity/Domain/29/List%20of%20Foreign%20Language%20Schools.pdf>

- There may be other options available as well such as classes at a Community College, other outside classes leading to one of the above tests, etc.

There are a couple of rumors regarding the Foreign Language requirement and classes that are absolutely not true listed below:

1. ***“Taking extra years of language classes will help a student get into a more prestigious university.”*** - In reality, this only really helps if a student is planning to “major” in a foreign language. Extra music classes (band or orchestra) in **high school** are much more helpful in this regard according to University Admission Officers.
2. ***“Students need to take language classes in Junior High in order to have enough ‘High School Credits’ to apply to a more prestigious university.”*** - Some parents/students are told that they have to have a certain number of High School Credits (classes completed) to apply to certain high-end universities. Often this number is unattainable at MSJHS because students are limited to six classes per semester. Universities know this, and base their admissions on the classes that were taken. As long as a student has taken 4 years of English, math, science, etc., the three years of language, and met all other requirements, they should have an acceptable number of High School Credits. *(Many other high schools in California and the U.S. offer seven classes per semester or more for students. This is why the “average” number of high school credits for students accepted into universities is higher than the MSJHS average. However, many MSJHS students are accepted to this universities each year, including many “music students”.)*

All music students at Hopkins/MSJHS eventually have to meet this requirement in some way. It is always possible to make one of these options work to meet this requirement and still participate in the Hopkins/MSJHS Music Program!

Information about the U.C. Foreign Language Requirement
(A letter from UC Berkeley from January 2011)

There are alternate ways to meet the Foreign language requirement. This comes from the UCOP website (<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/educators/counselors/adminfo/frshman/advising/admission/agr.html>) There is also a chart which outlines specific paths.

The minimum performance objectives of two years of high school study of the same language other than English should include:

The ability to sustain a brief conversation on simple everyday topics demonstrating good use of the whole sound system (good pronunciation) and of the basic structural patterns in past, present and future tenses, subjunctive and commands;

The ability to summarize, orally and in writing, the main points of a relatively simple reading passage not involving specialized vocabulary. Emphasis should not be on the ability to describe grammatical features of the language.

Classical languages (such as Latin or Greek) and American Sign Language are acceptable to fulfill the "e" requirement.

Generally, a bilingual student is considered to have met the "e" requirement and may choose not to enroll in courses in a language other than English. Such students may be better served by enrolling in additional electives or, if their English is limited, English as a Second Language. Students who elect not to take courses in a language other than English must satisfy the "e" requirement by one of the methods listed in Options for Satisfying UC's A-G Subject Requirements or document competence in a language other than English as described below.

Assistant Director
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
110 Sproul Hall #5800
Berkeley, CA 94720-5800

How to Meet the U.C. Foreign Language Requirement (as of January, 2012)

UC-approved high school courses

Two years (three years recommended) of the same language other than English. Courses should emphasize speaking and understanding, and include instruction in grammar, vocabulary, reading, composition and culture. American Sign Language and classical languages, such as Latin and Greek, are acceptable.

SAT Subject Examination

The following scores satisfy the entire requirement:

- Chinese With Listening: 520
- French/French With Listening: 540
- German/German With Listening: 510
- Modern Hebrew: 470
- Italian: 520
- Japanese With Listening: 510
- Korean With Listening: 500
- Latin: 530
- Spanish/Spanish With Listening: 520

AP or IB Examination

Score of 3, 4 or 5 on the AP Language or Literature Exam in French, German, Spanish or Latin (Chinese, Italian and Japanese are pending faculty approval);
score of 5, 6 or 7 on an IB Language A2 HL exam

College courses

Grade of C or better in any transferable course(s) (excluding conversation) held by the college to be equivalent to two years of high school language. Many colleges list the prerequisites for their second course in language as "Language 1 at this college or two years of high school language." In this case, Language 1 clears both years of the requirement.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 2012-2013

(For incoming 7th grade students – Hopkins JHS Music Department)



1. Why should I take music in Junior High school?

There are many, many reasons for taking music classes. Music takes the subjects that students learn (math, language, science, physical education, history) and lets students apply those skills in reading, performing, discussing, and expressing music. Students make many new friends in music because of the way music demands one to take notice and work with others, and because it is also a lot of fun! Students come away from music classes with a sense of pride and accomplishment in performing for their peers, family, and community.

All of the performing ensembles at Hopkins are of very high quality. The band program has been very well established at Hopkins for many years, and has won numerous awards. This is true of both the Symphonic Band and the Concert Band. The Hopkins Wind Ensemble was 1 of 2 middle school bands in the state selected to perform at the California Music Educators Association State Conference in March 2010. The orchestra program at Hopkins was started in 2005, and has already accomplished a lot. The orchestra program received a 1st-Place award at the first festival they attended in 2006, and received “Unanimous Superior” ratings at the CMEA Festival each year since. The orchestras are beginning to get the reputation as one of the best, strongest programs in the Bay Area. In fact, the Hopkins Advanced Orchestra was the “Best Middle School String Orchestra” in California in Spring 2008, received a “Perfect” score of “100” at the Anaheim festival in 2010, and was selected as a Featured Performer at the 2012 California All-State Music Education Conference!

Aside from that, **having a background in music is looked upon favorably by college and universities, regardless of the chosen field of study.** This often gives students an edge in the competition for acceptance into these institutions. Music students are looked at as automatically possessing skills that universities desire, including leadership, communication skills, problem-solving skills, ability to work in groups, and ability to perform in front of large audiences. Music also shows a strong “passion” that universities look for in application essays, and also shows participation in a subject that has strong community-based involvement. Students who are proficient on an instrument may also have higher chances of university admission if they are willing to play in musical ensembles, even if they are not a “music major”, because universities have to fill their bands and orchestras to perform and compete. (This is done fairly often according to UC Berkeley Director of Bands, Mr. Bob Calonico). *Please read the attached “Why Take Music” page for more information.*

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT TAKE MUSIC AT HOPKINS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED INTO THE MUSIC PROGRAMS AT MISSION SAN JOSE HIGH SCHOOL.

2. If my student already plays in an outside band or orchestra, is it the same (or better) than playing at Hopkins (or in high school)?

No, it is not nearly the same for students! Students who play in the band or orchestra at school receive 48 minutes of music instruction *every day*. This is much different than outside groups where students meet for only a limited amount of time per week. Because they meet every day, the ensembles are able to accomplish a tremendous amount in a school year. They learn a large number of performance works of varying styles, increasing in difficulty as the year progresses. They also are able to refine both their individual performance techniques on their instruments, and their ability to perform effectively as part of a group. All of this leads to the very high-quality music performing groups at Hopkins! Outside performing ensembles are also beneficial for students, but are generally designed to be a *supplement* to a student’s school musical experience. ***Playing in outside groups IS strongly encouraged for students in the Hopkins Bands and Orchestras, as it does help with their musical growth.***

Also, when applying for universities, admissions officers look for music on a student’s high school transcript. Participating in music classes at Hopkins will guarantee a place in the very high level music program at Mission San Jose High School.

3. Can my student take band/orchestra and foreign language in Junior High?

Unfortunately, the answer is no. However, **foreign language is not a Junior High requirement**, and many students struggle in language classes in Junior High. Students will have plenty of time to complete the 3 year language requirement during their high school years. ***Colleges and universities value music classes much more highly than extra years of language! Music classes are seen as equally as academic as language classes, and choosing music over language will absolutely not hurt college admissions chances!*** Also, **foreign language classes at Hopkins are very limited, and many students will not receive them as their elective choice.** I have included the University of California Admission Requirements as part of this packet to clarify this issue. All of the college admissions departments that I have spoken with confirm that they would rather see music classes than extra years of language, especially if a student plays in music classes continuously through middle and high school. If a student decides to quit band or orchestra at this time, they will lose most of what they have learned and will fall very far behind other students. Having your student in band or orchestra ensures that they will have a place in these classes all the way through high school, and can put it on their university applications. ***Please see the handouts in this packet related to the “Foreign Language Requirement”.***

5. Can you take Band/Orchestra in Junior High and High School and still meet/exceed all University Entrance Requirements?

Yes! There is a system in place for students to take 4 years of orchestra or band in high school while still meeting all university entrance requirements. *The attached pages have more information on this!*

(Cont. on Next Page)

6. What are the differences between the music classes at Hopkins? How do I know which to enroll in?

There are 2 types of performing ensembles at Hopkins. The instruments in each are as follows:

- Band: trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, percussion, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone
Orchestra: violin, viola, cello, string bass

There are three levels of band. Beginning Band is designed for students who have not played a band instrument or who have played less than one year. Concert Band is designed for mostly 7th grade students coming from the “Advanced Elementary Band”, or students who have at least completed Book 1 on their instrument. Symphonic Band is for mostly 8th grade students who have at least completed Book 2 on their instrument, and who have completed an audition.

The 2 levels of orchestra are designed as follows: Intermediate Orchestra is designed for students who have completed at least 1 year of the After-School Orchestra program at Hopkins, or who have been playing outside for at least 2 years. Advanced Orchestra is for mostly 8th grade students who have completed Intermediate Orchestra, or have completed an audition.

Please read the course descriptions in this packet for more information.

7. I want to take Jazz Band. Can I do that instead of Concert/Symphonic Band?

No. Students in the Jazz classes must also be concurrently enrolled in one of the “daytime” music classes. Students studying jazz also need to have a complete understanding of the concepts taught during the regular music classes. This is why the jazz program is taught outside of the school day.

8. What festival and outside performance activities will I have as part of the Hopkins Music Department?

In addition to the on-campus concerts, there are several opportunities for music students at Hopkins. Band and Orchestras at Hopkins annually participate in the respective CMEA Large Group Festivals. Ensembles from Hopkins have received the highest-possible ratings at these festivals for many years. The Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Advanced Orchestra also participate annually in a Music in the Parks festival in Anaheim, CA (Disneyland). All three groups have received “1st Place” awards in their division consistently. Concert Band and Intermediate Orchestra participate annually in a local Music in the Parks festival at Great America.

There are also opportunities for honor bands and orchestras in Fremont, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the State of California. These groups require audition and recommendation of a student’s band or orchestra director. **In 2011, Hopkins was fortunate to have 33 students in the FUSD Honor Band, 5 students in the CMEA Bay Section Honor Band and Orchestra, 29 students in the Alameda County JHS Honor Band, 44 students in the NCBA All-Northern California Jr. High Honor Band (*the most of any school*), and 24 students in the CBDA All-State Jr. High Honor Band (*the most of any school in California!*).**

All students in the Hopkins Music Program also have the opportunity to participate in the CMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival, which gives students an opportunity to perform individually or in a small group in front of a judge and receive a rating. This year, approximately 70 students from Hopkins will participate in this festival.

8. I have played piano for many years. What class can I take to play piano?

Unfortunately there are no pianists in either the band or orchestra classes. There is no music written for piano in these ensembles. If a student has played piano, but no other instrument, I would recommend that they register for “Beginning Band”, where they would learn how to play a new instrument. These types of students are generally ahead in music reading, but still need to learn all of the other physical skills required for band instruments.

9. I used to play an instrument, but stopped. Can I start up again?

Yes! You would need to set up an appointment to play for Mr. Conway so that he may place you in the correct class. You may also want to consider taking some private lessons to get “caught up” to where other students are.

10. Do I have to provide my own instrument for music classes at Hopkins?

In most cases, yes. There are some instruments available for student use, but they are limited. I would be more than happy to provide information about instrument rental or purchase. Generally, rental of an instrument ranges from \$15-40 per month depending on the model and type.

11. I have more questions about the music program at Hopkins. Where should I look and who should I contact?

First, look at the Hopkins Music Dept. website: www.musicathopkins.com. There is a lot of information about the Hopkins Music Program on this site. If you still have questions, feel free to contact Mr. Conway. Generally, the best way to contact him is via e-mail at gconway@musicathopkins.com. You may also leave a voice message, but it may take a few days for your call to be returned: (510) 656-3500, ext. 38023.

Music Class Sequence: Mission Attendance Area FUSD (For students beginning in 4th Grade)

Band*

4th Grade: Elementary Beginning Band

This class provides an introduction to the instrument and establishes basics, including music reading, tone production, correct playing techniques, and basic performance techniques. There will be a minimum of one concert. Classes meet at each elementary school once per week for 1 hour.

5th Grade: Elementary Intermediate Band

This class is a continuation of Band, picking up from the end of Beginning Band. It continues on more advanced topics related to music reading, playing techniques, and tone production. There is also a focus on harmony and musical independence. There will be a minimum of one concert. Classes meet at each elementary school once per week for 1 hour.

6th Grade: Advanced Elementary Band

This class involves 6th grade students from all elementary schools in the Mission Attendance Area. It provides a continuation of Band classes, with a focus on large-ensemble performance. This is also an opportunity for students to switch to some of the larger band instruments (such as trombone, baritone, tuba, bass clarinet, bassoon, etc.) It is also an opportunity for band students to meet and interact with students from other schools that they will be in band class with in 7th and 8th grade. This ensemble performs at least three times per year: in January/February, and two other concerts in May/June. This class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week in the evening for 75 minutes, and is taught by the Director of Bands at Hopkins.

7th Grade: Hopkins JHS Concert Band

This class represents the first opportunity for students to have music classes as part of their daily school schedule. Classes meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. Continuation and refinement of skills such as tone production, ensemble balance, blend, and intonation are focused upon. Also, students learn and master an advanced level of music reading, notation, and theory. Many students switch instruments in the class in order to form a balanced ensemble. These students who switch to a new instrument receive private group lessons (by instrument) once per week from the band director. This ensemble performs at a very high level, and requires a lot of musical growth during the year. Concert Band performs at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, as well as traveling to the CMEA Band Festival in the spring, and performing at a Music in the Parks Festival at Great America.

8th Grade: Hopkins JHS Symphonic Band OR Wind Ensemble

These are the second in the comprehensive Band sequence at Hopkins JHS. Classes again meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. This class also continues refinement of all previously learned skills. There is an introduction of more advanced performance and music reading concepts. Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble are each considered to be one of the highest-level middle school/junior high bands in the State of California. This class is designed to prepare students to participate in the bands at Mission San Jose High School. Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble perform at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, including the Mission Attendance Area Concert at Ohlone College. This ensemble also participates in the spring CMEA Band Festival, and travels to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) to participate in the Music in the Parks festival in May. Students in this class have the opportunity to audition for the Hopkins Jazz Ensemble, which is a "Big Band" that meets before school 4 days per week. Also, selected students from Wind Ensemble will be asked to play with the Full Orchestra. (Wind Ensemble is a slightly more advanced group with students accepted by audition.)

** There are many exceptions to this sequence, and students always have the option of testing into a higher level if there is space in the class. Students may also begin the sequence at any time in elementary school. However, it is strongly recommended that students begin an instrument in 4th or 5th grade.*

Hopkins JHS Music Class Sequence, Page 2

Orchestra*

4th Grade: Elementary Beginning String Orchestra

This class provides an introduction to the instrument and establishes basics, including music reading, tone production, correct playing techniques, and basic performance techniques. The first meeting of this class will involve an instrument selection process to establish a balanced ensemble. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools (Chadbourne, Gomes, Mission San Jose, and Mission Valley).

5th Grade: Elementary Intermediate String Orchestra

This class is a continuation of Orchestra, picking up from the end of Beginning Strings. It continues with more advanced topics related to music reading, playing techniques, and tone production. There is also a focus on harmony and musical independence. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 1 hour, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools.

6th Grade: Elementary Advanced String Orchestra

This class is a continuation of Intermediate Orchestra, picking up from the end of Intermediate Strings. It continues more detailed refinement of skills including music reading, tone production, and more advanced playing techniques. There is continuing focus on harmony, musical independence, and musicality. Students in this class are expected to perform at a high elementary level. There will be a minimum of two concerts, one in the winter and one in the spring. Class meets at Hopkins JHS once per week for 75 minutes, and involves students from all Mission Attendance Area elementary schools.

7th Grade: Hopkins JHS Intermediate Orchestra

This class represents the first opportunity for students to have music classes as part of their daily school schedule. Classes meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. Continuation and refinement of skills such as tone production, ensemble balance, blend, and intonation are focused upon. Also, students learn and master an advanced level of music reading, notation, and theory. This ensemble performs at a very high level, and requires a lot of musical growth during the year. **This class is not to be confused with *Elementary Intermediate Orchestra*, as they are not the same!** Intermediate Orchestra performs in a minimum of 2 evening concerts per year, and travels to the local CMEA Orchestra Festival, and a Music in the Parks Festival at Great America in the spring.

8th Grade: Hopkins JHS Advanced Orchestra & Full Orchestra

This is the second in the comprehensive Orchestra sequence at Hopkins JHS. Classes again meet as part of the regular school schedule for 48 minutes per day. This class continues refinement of all previously learned skills. There is also an introduction of more advanced performance and music reading concepts. This class is designed to prepare students to participate in the orchestra at Mission San Jose High School, and performs at a very high level. Advanced Orchestra performs at a minimum of 3 evening concerts during the year, including the Mission Attendance Area Concert at Ohlone College. This ensemble also participates in the spring CMEA Orchestra Festival, and travels to Anaheim, CA (Disneyland) to participate in the Music in the Parks festival in May. Selected students in this class are part of the Hopkins Full Orchestra, where members of Wind Ensemble are brought in to rehearse with the string players.

** There are many exceptions to this sequence, and students always have the option of testing into a higher level if there is space in the class. Students may also begin the sequence at any time in elementary school. However, it is strongly recommended that students begin an instrument in 4th or 5th grade.*

Hopkins JHS Music Class Intent Form 2012-13

(for students entering 7th Grade)

Please fill this out and return to Hopkins with registration packet if interested in music classes. Make sure you list "Band" or "Orchestra" as your 1st choice on the Hopkins JHS Registration Form. Return with registration packet or to:

Mr. Greg Conway
Hopkins Jr. High School
600 Driscoll Road
Fremont, CA 94539

Please Print:

Student's Legal Name _____ Instrument: _____

Elementary School: _____ Years of Experience: _____

Elementary Band Teacher: _____

Takes Private Lessons? Y / N If Yes, how long? _____ With Whom? _____

Parent's Email Address _____

Please check one of the following options:

Band (Woodwinds/Brass/Percussion):

MAKE SURE YOU LIST "BAND" AS YOUR 1ST CHOICE ELECTIVE!

___ *Finished/Will Finish* "Standard of Excellence: Book 1" with their band/private teacher and will sign up for **CONCERT BAND (Need 1 or more years of experience)**

___ *Did Not/Will Not Finish* "Standard of Excellence: Book 1", but has gotten to Pg. 20 and would like to sign up for **CONCERT BAND (Need 1 or more years of experience)**

___ *Finished/Will Finish* "Standard of Excellence: Book 2" OR the equivalent with their band/private teacher and would like to audition for **SYMPHONIC BAND (Need 2-4 years experience)**. I understand that only a few 7th grade students will be accepted into this class, and the rest will be placed in CONCERT BAND. (You will also need to send an e-mail or leave a voice mail message for Mr. Conway to arrange an audition time, and will need to get a copy of the required audition music.)

___ Has *Less Than 1 years' experience* on their instrument, or *has not played a BAND instrument*, and will sign up for **BEGINNING BAND**

Orchestra (Strings):

MAKE SURE YOU LIST "ORCHESTRA" AS YOUR 1ST CHOICE ELECTIVE!

___ Has *Two Years or More Experience* on an orchestral instrument (or director approval) and will sign up for **INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA**

___ Has *At Least 3 Years Experience* on an orchestral instrument and would like to audition for **ADVANCED ORCHESTRA**. I understand that only a few 7th grade students will be accepted into this class, and the rest will be placed in INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA. (You will also need to send an e-mail or leave a voice mail message for Mr. Conway to arrange an audition time.)

Feel free to contact Mr. Conway at Hopkins with any questions:
(510) 656-3500, ext. 38023
gconway@musicathopkins.com