

Talley Middle School

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Wilmington, DE 19810
475-3976
475-3998 (fax)

🎵 Music Department Handbook 🎵



Mr. Ryan Warfel, Band Director
Ms. Nicole Veater, Orchestra Director
Mrs. Elizabeth Warfel, Vocal/General Music
Mr. Greg Reynolds, General Music/Music Technology

Dear Music Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the Talley Middle School Music Department! We are thrilled you have decided to join one of our many music ensembles. Talley tries to offer students many different ways to express themselves and show off their talents. We hope you will find a place to do that here. Talley's performing ensembles have a long history of producing quality music. Every year our ensembles participate in music festivals and competitions and consistently receive very high commendations. Several former students from Talley have gone on to become leaders in their high school ensembles and many even college music majors! We perform several times a year in our own school and at district events and we always send students to participate in the many outside festivals that our state has to offer.

Music classes should be thought of as an academic class where you will learn something every day. You will be expected to work and work hard! Students in music classes do have written assignments, tests, quizzes, worksheets, and they even have to play or sing by themselves once in a while. You will also be expected to practice your music on your own, outside of school. We will talk about the history of the pieces you are performing, the area of the world that they come from, and we will learn the theory necessary to read and perform music successfully. ALL OF THIS is designed to make you a better musician and help you gain a life-long love and appreciation for music. It won't be easy, but in the end, hopefully, it will be a lot of FUN!

Students in music classes tend to have better grades and score better on exams than other students both nationally and within our own school walls. Students are expected to keep their grades up in their academic classes so that they are allowed to miss those classes when we have performances or rehearsals during school hours. If you are struggling academically, you will not be allowed to miss those classes so work hard EVERYWHERE! Appropriate student behavior is expected from everyone. It is your "ticket" to earning the right to be out of class for rehearsals and trips, and attend performances.

Parents can get involved by joining the Talley Music Boosters. This organization was formed to help with fundraising for the music department and provide parent support for concerts and special events held throughout the year. Please see the Talley Booster Club information in the back of this handbook for more information

PLEASE, take a few minutes to review this handbook as it contains all of the information you will need to be a successful musician here at Talley Middle School. The last few pages are things which need to be signed and returned to school no later than Friday, September 28, 2018. By filling out the signature page at the end of this book, you are telling us that you understand the responsibilities that come with being a music student and you are ready for the challenge. Music Booster memberships are accepted at any time, but please consider joining as soon as you are able. Remember to return all money in a sealed envelope labeled with your child's name and what the money is for.

Study lots, practice often, work hard, and remember the 212^o motto! We know you can do it!

Wishing you all the best of luck,

Mr. & Mrs. Warfel, Ms. Veater, and Mr. Reynolds

**Talley MS Music Department Calendar
2018 – 2019**

September

Wed. 12/Thurs. 13 – Joe Corbis Fundraiser begins

Wed. 26/Thurs.– Joe Corbis Fundraiser orders and money are DUE TODAY

Fri. 28 – Student/Parent Handbook Signature Page Due to music teacher, please send one for each ensemble your child is in.

October

Mon. 8 – All-State Chorus Applications and \$ are due

76Wed. 24 – Joe Corbis Fundraiser Order Pick-up, 2:55pm-6:30pm, TALLEY MUSIC BOOSTERS first meeting, 6:30pm

Mon. 29/Tues. 30 – Deadline for \$10 DEPOSIT for Trills & Thrills
(7th/8th grades only)

November

Thurs. 1– Native American Arts Festival – 7th & 8th Grade Men’s and Women’s Choirs, select band/orchestra students ONLY 6:00pm students arrive/Art show begins, 6:30pm perform

Sat. 3 – Fall Stringfest – 9:00 – 12:30 at MPHS, open to all string students in BSD

Mon. 5 - All-State Band applications and \$ are due.

Fri. 9 – Veteran’s Day Celebration – 8th Grade Band, All Men’s & Women’s Choirs in all grades, concert 10:00am for student body/special guests.

Sat. 17 – All-State Jr. Chorus Auditions

December

Thurs. 6 – 6th, 7th, 8th Grade Choirs – 6:30pm arrive, 7:00pm perform

Mon. 10 – 6th Grade Band & Orchestra; 6:30pm students arrive 7:00pm perform

Thurs. 13 – 7th & 8th Grade Bands, Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble, 6:30pm students arrive 7:00pm perform

January

Mon. 7 – Drama Club Kick-Off Meeting

Wed. 9 – BSD Choir Festival, 8:30am – 12:00pm, P.S. Dupont MS
(Weather Contingency Fri. 11)

Mon. 14 – Thurs. 17 – Drama Club Musical Auditions

Wed. 23 – First Drama Club Rehearsal, 3:00-4:25pm

Sat. 19 – All-State Instrumental Auditions (Band, Jazz)

February

Thurs. 7 – Sat. 9 – All-State Chorus Festival

Sat. 23 – BSD Stringfest, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Location TBA, open to all string students

Thurs. 28 – Music Department Spaghetti Dinner Dance – 6:30pm

March

Wed. 13 – 16th Annual POP Art & Music Festival – 8th grade band/ 7th & 8th Grade Men’s & Women’s Choirs, Jazz Ensemble, 7th/8th Orchestra, 6:30pm students arrive, 7:00pm performance

Fri. 22 – BHS Jazz Festival – Jazz Ensemble only

Thurs. 28 – Sat. 30 – All-State Jr. Band Festival

April

Tues. 30 – All Choirs Spring Choir Concert, 6:30pm students arrive, 7:00pm perform

May

Thurs. 2 – 7th/8th Grade Band, Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert, 6:30pm students arrive, 7:00pm performance

Thurs. 3 – 6th Grade Band & Orchestra, Spring Concert 6:30pm students arrive, 7:00pm performance

Thurs. 16/Fri. 17 – Drama Club Production of “The Little Mermaid Jr.” 7:00pm

Fri. 24 - 7th & 8th Band & Chorus Trills and Thrills Festival at Dorney Park

Other Important Information Regarding the Performance Schedule

Students may be asked to perform during school hours at various other school functions/field trips. Information regarding those performances will be sent home as they occur.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE– Additional performances will be added to the calendar for these groups, but those will be given to members after auditions happen and the groups begin rehearsing.

CONCERTS LISTED IN BOLD ARE EVENING PERFORMANCES WHICH ARE GRADED AND MANDATORY FOR ALL PERFORMERS IN THE ENSEMBLE!

Other performance dates may be added to the calendar after the school year begins. Advance notice will always be given in order to try and include as many students as possible. **Students will not be held accountable for any performance added after the initial calendar is published so long as parents notify the directors in advance of conflicts with the performance date.**

Discipline Procedures

All music teachers will use the strike system or other behavior management systems as outlined by your student's academic team or school wide incentive program. All students will receive verbal warnings regarding inappropriate behavior in class. If the behavior does not stop a student could possibly be sent out of class if the inappropriate action is disruptive to the classroom environment. Parents will typically be contacted when a student is sent to the U-turn room. All of our music teachers will also reward students for their appropriate behaviors thru the use of BOILING POINT cards and other incentives as outlined by each teacher in their classroom.

Major offenses such as fighting, stealing (without returning the item), use of serious inappropriate language, or anything which poses a threat to student safety, will be immediately reported to an administrator, and the administrator will determine the consequences for the action. Parents will be notified when any such action occurs.

Grading Policy

Music grades will be based on a student's formative and summative assessments using the grading scale used here at Talley MS, as per district policy. The district policy states that a student's final grade will be comprised of the following:

70% Summative Assessments = a minimum of 3 per marking period

30% Formative Assessments = a minimum of 6 per marking period

Evening concerts could count as a summative assessment for performing ensembles and students are expected to be at those performances. If a student is unable to attend a performance and parent/guardian **MUST** supply the director with the required excuse note and the student may be required to perform their repertoire for the director at a separate time to be scored for that assessment.

Assessments *could* be defined as: singing/playing quizzes, written quizzes and tests, writing assignments, homework, theory book work, projects, practice sheets, schoology assignments – including, but not limited to; discussion boards and other listening/writing assignments, online quizzes.

Communication

The music department will use the following means of communication with students/families during the course of the school year:

REMIND 101 – Families can sign-up to receive email/text alerts

EMAIL – The music department will always use email as our primary means of communication. We will use email addresses found in eschool or that you provide to us via paperwork found in this book. The music boosters will use email also.

Elizabeth.warfel@bsd.k12.de.us

Ryan.warfel@bsd.k12.de.us

Gregory.reynolds@bsd.k12.de.us

Nicole.veater@bsd.k12.de.us

MUSIC DEPT. WEBPAGES on Talley Website – under “departments”

SCHOOLY/ESCHOOL MESSAGES as appropriate

PHONE CALLS as appropriate, using information from eschool or that you provide

Concert Attendance Policy

Concert attendance is mandatory. Our class work is geared with the goal of acceptable, musical, performance at least two times a year (possibly more). It is difficult to perform well when members of the group are missing. The only exceptions to this policy are absence from school due to personal illness, death in the immediate family, or emergencies as cleared by the director or principal. A written excuse, signed by a parent or guardian is required for a student to be excused from a concert. Due to the nature of the district grading policy, students will have to complete an alternative assessment in order to receive a grade for the Summative Assessment. The excuse note allows the student the opportunity to take that alternative assessment. In the event of an emergency the day of the concert, please call the school and leave a message for the director and send a written note when the student returns to school.

Dress Code for Concerts

Our goal is to look as good as we sound!

Men:

Black dress pants (no black jeans), with a belt
Black button down shirt, tucked in, and a necktie (any color)
Black socks and black dress shoes

Women:

Black dress pants or a black knee length or longer skirt (fingertip length is not appropriate on stage)

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CELLO PLAYERS MUST WEAR PANTS!

Black dressy shirt (ALL BLACK, no tank tops)

Black dress shoes

Hair should be pulled back off of face.

*Small earrings and small necklaces are fine. Please, no large hoop earrings, jewelry with your name/words written on it in large letters, or anything such as hemp necklaces, chain necklaces etc. Also, NO PLASTIC ARM BANDS, rainbow looms, silly bands, etc.!

Students may be invited to purchase additional items such as t-shirts for field trips or special events. Information regarding those purchases will be sent home as needed.

Fundraising

Students in our music program will be asked to participate in fundraising programs throughout the school year in support of our programming needs. Please consider participating in these if you are able. All fundraisers are sponsored by the Talley Music Boosters.

Our music department also participates in the BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION program. Many of the products you purchase at the grocery store for your family participate in the “Boxtops for Education” program. You simply cut the label found on the package and as you collect them, send the Boxtops in to school with your child. The music boosters will turn in the labels collected in exchange for money!

REGARDING FUNDRAISERS & FIELD TRIPS – Any time you send in money to school with your child we ask that you PLEASE put it in a SEALED envelope with your child’s name and what the money is for on the outside of the envelope

All-State Jr. Band and Jr. Chorus

Students in the *7th & 8th grades* are offered the opportunity to audition for the Delaware All-State events. Students who wish to audition must prepare a solo piece to perform and sight read in front of a panel of judges. Band students are also required to play scales, and choral students may be required to sing a trio/quartet piece. Students must provide their own transportation to and from auditions.

There is also an audition fee of \$15.00 that students must pay at the time they submit their application. If a student is selected for any of the All-State events, parents must agree to provide transportation for their child to all scheduled rehearsals, and the concert. During the all-state weekend students will be absent from school for rehearsals on Thursday and Friday of that week. These are excused absences from school and students will be given the opportunity to make up all missed work. All-State concerts are always performed on a Saturday afternoon or evening.

Please note: There are EXTRA Saturday rehearsals in our county before the entire state gets together for the All-State weekend. These are mandatory rehearsals. The dates of all mandatory rehearsals have not been released for chorus yet so your director will provide you with that information if you are accepted into one of the All-State ensembles.

Please see your director for more information regarding All-State auditions.

Jazz Ensemble

We offer a Jazz Ensemble for students to participate in after school. Students must audition and/or seek permission from the director in order to join. Please pay attention to announcements in class about when auditions will take place and when rehearsals will begin. Jazz Ensemble rehearses on Friday afternoons to avoid conflicts with most other school activities. Because we only rehearse once a week it is mandatory that students attend as many rehearsals as is possible. Absences MUST receive prior approval from the director, unless you are absent from school that day. If a student misses too many rehearsals he/she may be asked NOT to participate in an upcoming concert. Students will be expected to follow all rules as outlined in the Brandywine School District Code of Conduct as well as any additional Talley Middle School rules during all after school activities and Jazz Ensemble is included in this.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Tri-M is for 8th grade students only. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and show dedication and leadership within their music ensemble(s) to be invited to membership. Membership is granted by invitation only.

Music/Materials – Care & Responsibility

Students will be given sheet music, theory books, methods books, and other paper copy materials to use during class and performances. Sheet music is our classroom textbook, along with theory and method books and any other classroom reading materials used in class, and should be treated like other classroom textbooks. Students have the responsibility to care for and return every piece of music given to them. If a piece of music is lost, damaged, or stolen it will be the student/parent's responsibility to pay the replacement price of that piece. PLEASE USE **PENCIL** ONLY IN MUSIC CLASS!!!!!! Music that has been marked in PEN is considered damaged and the student will be charged for any music marked with PEN.

Any other materials used in class, including auxiliary percussion, pianos, etc., or loaned to a student for use in school or at home, should be cared for at all times. If a student is misusing school property or breaks/destroys something by being careless, parents will be responsible for the repair or replacement cost of the materials. Damage by normal wear and tear is understood.

Please remember to clean up after yourself and put your own materials away at the end of class. If you take your materials home to practice and forget to bring them back, chances are good there are not going to be extra copies or extra instruments for you to use during class. This will make participation in class difficult so please be responsible with your materials and bring them back to school.

Trills and Thrills Festivals – 7th & 8th Grade Students ONLY

Every year our music department travels to compete in a festival scheduled for the end of May. This is a festival where we compete with other regional schools and are judged by music educators from established universities/colleges. We always leave very early in the morning and after competing we will spend some time at an amusement park, and possibly end the day with an awards ceremony. The cost of the trip is likely to be more than \$105.00 per person this year. Students attending the trip must wear their supplied music department t-shirts and dress code appropriate shorts/pants/skirts for the entire day. Students are also responsible for their food/drink during the day at the amusement park. A detailed itinerary will be made available for parents before the trip happens.

Please note: This trip is **NON-REFUNDABLE**. Once a student has paid for a spot on the trip, he/she will not get his/her money back, even if it is the director who has said that a student may not attend the trip. Please read the following reasons why a student might not be allowed to participate in this field trip.

A student's privileges to attend the festival may be revoked for one or more of the following reasons:

- Failure to attend required concerts without a valid written excuse or failure to turn in make-up work or take summative assessment if required by director.
- Failure to return permission slip
- Exhibiting behaviors that do not exemplify "The Talley Way"
- Repeated violation of the Brandywine School District's Code of Conduct and/or the Talley Student Handbook.
- Students fighting or contributing to a fight.
- Assigned suspension on the day of the trip.

Attending this trip is a privilege and you (student) are representing our school. Unacceptable behavior will affect your ability to participate in this event. Please remember, this is a NON-REFUNDABLE field trip. If a student's behavior during this trip warrants serious action to be taken, administrators at the school will be notified and parents may be called to drive to the park and pick up their child immediately.

*Information will come home soon regarding the details of this trip. A \$10.00 DEPOSIT, CASH ONLY, for this trip is due from students and parents/guardians interested in going NO LATER than Monday Oct.29/Tues. Oct. 30, 2018. Chaperones will be asked to put down a deposit as well and that paperwork will come home in a few weeks. Please return the Chaperone Interest Form with your child's permission slip. **Please return money in a sealed envelope labeled on the front with your child's name, teacher's name, and what the money is for.***

Information for Band/Orchestra Students Only

Instrument Rental

Students who choose to play FLUTE, CLARINET, ALTO SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, VIOLIN, VIOLA, or PERCUSSION *must* rent/purchase their own instrument. Students who play instruments other than those listed above are *encouraged*, to rent an instrument, if they have not already purchased one. Rental instruments are available through ACCENT MUSIC (Kirkwood Hwy.), GUITAR CENTER (in the Brandywine Town Center down on the corner of Rt. 202 and Naaman's Rd.), and MUSIC AND ARTS CENTER (Kirkwood Hwy.) Information will be sent home concerning rentals at the beginning of the school year. All three companies are reputable companies and offer significant savings if you rent through a school program.

Use of a School Instrument & Instrument Bond

If you are using a school owned instrument, you will have to fill out a bond that is required by the Brandywine School District. The bond will be handed out at the same time the student is given the instrument. This bond indicates that you (student/parent) are responsible for the school owned instrument and it's repairs. All school owned instruments must be returned in the same condition they are loaned or there will be obligations held against you until the instrument is in working order, or a new one is purchased. If an instrument is stolen, the student/parent is responsible for replacing it. All instruments must be returned to the director at the end of the school year.

Instrument Repairs

If your instrument will not play correctly, please allow the band director to look at your instrument FIRST. If the repairs are easy, the director will be happy to fix it for you. If the repairs appear to be more difficult you will be responsible for taking your instrument to a repairman to be fixed.

Contact:

Flute Pro Shop 3612 Silverside Rd. - 479-5000

Concord Music 2805 Concord Pike Wilmington, DE (302) 658-6875

Music & Arts Center 4707 Kirkwood Hwy Wilmington, DE (302) 633-0600

Dave Cottrell – (410) 392-2279 (Band and Orchestra students)

A Minor Tune-Up Brass Repair, Chris Cromer – 1704 N. Scott St. Wilmington, DE 19806, (302)658-1587

Please note: Even if an instrument is being repaired, the student must still turn in a practice sheet for the week. The student can spend time working on fingerings, marking their music etc., and those things will count as practice time.

Method Books

All band students will be provided a method book to use throughout the year. Each book will have a number on it and should stay in the student's band folder at all times. All books must be returned to teacher at the end of the year or it will be considered an obligation. An obligation results in a student not receiving their report card until the obligation is paid.

Locks for Instrument Cages

All band students ***must*** provide a lock for their instrument storage cage or locker. This is the only way to guarantee that a student's instrument is not stolen/broken/played by another student. Talley Middle School, Mr. Warfel, Ms. Veater, or other music teachers, administration, staff and other faculty are not responsible for lost or missing instruments or instruments that are damaged as a result of not being locked in a cage/locker. Students are provided a safe place to leave their instruments during the day and it is expected that students secure that area with a lock.

Maintenance of your Instrument

It is VERY important that you take care of your instrument, whether it is a school owned instrument, or your own personal instrument. Please do not put large objects such as folders, water bottles, etc., into your case as those objects could damage your instrument. Make sure you consistently clean out your instrument after each rehearsal and that you return the instrument to its case after each rehearsal. Instruments left lying out of their cases are subject to theft and/or damage, and are NOT the responsibility of the teacher.

Woodwind Players – Be certain you have an extra supply of reeds in your instrument case, just in case one breaks during class or performance. If you do not have a working reed, you will not be able to participate in class, and therefore will not earn your participation points for the day.

Brass Players – All brass players should supply their own mouthpiece, valve oil and slide grease. These things are a MUST for all brass players.

String Players - You must provide your own bow rosin and an extra set of strings. Cello players should have an end pin stop. Violin/Viola players should have a shoulder rest.

Private Teachers

(Accent Music, Flute Pro Shop, Music School of Delaware are available as well)

Flute

Rebecca Haas 438-9737

Mary Kay Mann (610) 304-2939

Joan Sparks 652-4337

Oboe

Susan Ritter 529-0485

Lloyd Shorter 831-8426

Clarinet

Sarah Bresnahan 479-5000

Ruokai Chen 345-1290

John Mills 737-1105

Saxophone

Joe Harris 995-1747

Matt Hetzler 633-0600 (Music and Arts)

Vince Lardear 983-7535

John Mills 737-1105

Trumpet

Bob Baronio 290-7863

Jay Snyder 995-1712

Lloyd Walton 995-6975

Horn

Cheri Astolfi, 690-0789

Amy Boyd 354-0737

Low Brass

Jeff Parrott 239-0183

Robert Streckfuss 239-9798

Percussion

Jeff Dombchik 529-0953

Jonathan Whitney 750-0555

Parent/Student Agreement

Please sign and date in the appropriate place, indicating your agreement to the terms and expectations for membership in a Talley Middle School Music Ensemble.

I _____ understand fully the expectations of a student musician at
(student's name)

Talley Middle School. I agree to do my best to be a productive and fully participating member of my ensemble. I also understand the consequences if I do not comply with the expectations set forth in this handbook.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

I have read ALL of the enclosed information and understand what is expected of my child in order to participate in any of the Talley Middle School music ensembles.

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent Email: _____

Please Note: Your director(s) will send home the instructions to sign up for the REMIND 101 text alerts.

You can also review the Talley Music Department Handbook online at:
www.brandywineschools.org/talley

Under departments click on Music, then click on the link on the left side of the page titled **Music Department Handbook**.

Please return this signed paper to your student's music teacher by Fri., Sept. 28, 2018.

TALLEY MUSIC BOOSTERS

The Talley Music Boosters invite you to become a member of our organization. Membership in this organization will first and foremost benefit your child as a musician at Talley Middle School. Membership will also earn you a spot in our concert programs as a “Supporter of the Arts” and you will receive MONTHLY EMAIL updates about music department happenings! You will be helping to financially support our music programs through both your membership fee and the fundraising activities this group will carry out during the school year. A few of the things the money raised by this organization will help to fund include:

- Instruments for students and the cost of maintenance for them.
- Purchase of music, methods books, and other materials used in the classroom.
- Large equipment, computers, and other technology used both in the classroom and for performances.
- Support for students who cannot afford field trips, proper concert attire, or other materials as required for their class.

Please fill out the form below and return to your child’s MUSIC teacher as soon as possible. You may join the booster organization at any time during the school year, but we hope that you will join soon!

Thank you for your continued support of the musical arts at Talley Middle School.

Sincerely,

The Talley Music Booster Club Officers

Talley Music Booster Association Membership Form

Parent/Guardian’s Name(s) _____

Student’s Name _____ Best Phone Number: () --

Mailing Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Email address: (Most communications are sent via email. PLEASE PRINT!)

Please return your membership form and fee of **\$10.00 CASH ONLY** to your child’s teacher, with this form in an envelope clearly labeled with BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERSHIP, your child’s name, and your child’s music teacher’s name.