



# Hillsdale Music Student Handout 2017-2018

Welcome to the Hillsdale Middle School Music Department!

We look forward to the year secure in the belief that it will be another banner year for Hillsdale. Through the music program, Hillsdale music students will not only learn to play a musical instrument, but will also learn the essential qualities of self-discipline, rehearsal conduct, performance deportment, instrument and vocal care, music theory, and an appreciation of the musical fine arts. There are four main components - **Recording, Performance, Expert Evaluation, and Character Development.**

We will produce a DVD/Blu-ray of the winter and spring concerts, perform for adjudicators and family, and be recognized for our outstanding behavior on and off the stage. Students will be given opportunities to audition for honor groups that will give them direct links to colleges and their recruiters. We have seen students use music to get ahead in life and finance their college. More than ever, colleges have seen the music student as an important part of their college, and we have many examples of colleges choosing our graduates over non-musicians. In fact, recently a former student received a full-ride to UCLA in music. Our students have also fed into every Ivy league school.

Students accomplishments over the years have included: 2 time "Top 5 in the Nation" Recording contest through Sony Music- Featured on Local News with Larry Himmel, Dave Scott, and Rod Luck. - 3 time ITV selected Performance from KSDS 88.3 Jazz City College Jazz Festival - Over 100 students selected for All-County Honor Band since its inception. – 24 All-State Honor Band Participants since its inception - 4 National Honor Band Participants - Achieved high ratings in local and regional Festivals - Community Performer for many events (Taste of East County, Policeman's Foundation Dinner at the Prado, Movie Openings, Viejas Outlet Center, La Mesa Old Fashioned Xmas, Women's Abuse shelter opening, etc.) - 12 time Sweepstakes winner and Three time "Esprit De Corps" Winner at "Music in the Parks". - We have earned nearly \$100,000 in tickets in exchange for our performance at Disneyland.- Two time selected performer for the California Music Educators Association "Administrators Dessert" show - Jazz Ensemble and Choir.

Studies have shown that taking a music class enhances higher brain function, improves reading and math performance, raises IQ scores, provides important experiences, increases SAT Scores, teaches a habit of excellence, develops quick and decisive thinking, builds teamwork, and enhances cooperation, which ultimately will prepare children for their future.

Membership in these close-knit and active groups is a source of considerable pride. While music probably requires more time than some activities, these activities are richly rewarding. The requirements of the class are demanding, yet entirely within reach of any student willing to work.

We are so fortunate to have an amazing community of parents and H.M.D.P.A a non-profit 501(c)(3). Because of them, we can continue to foster the musical development of all our students. Please consider being a part of this organization. A separate packet is designed to answer questions about what they do.

The complete the google form <https://goo.gl/forms/bI8u51TTEkhJo7673> or the last page **"Emergency Contact"** by **August 24<sup>rd</sup>**. Please come to a *New* Music Parent Informational Meeting on **August 24th, at 6:30PM in Room 101**. Door closest to the Parking lot to the right of the Marquis.

Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to working with all of you.

**Mr. Spencer Caldwell** (Beginning Band and Strings, Concert and Symphonic Band, and Drumline)  
Email: [caldwells@cajonvalley.net](mailto:caldwells@cajonvalley.net)

**Mrs. Monica Disselkoen (Intermediate Band and Intermediate Orchestra)**  
Email: [disselkoenm@cajonvalley.net](mailto:disselkoenm@cajonvalley.net)

**Mr. Casey Hernandez (Assistant Director, Advanced Orchestra and Choir)**  
Email: [hernandezc@cajonvalley.net](mailto:hernandezc@cajonvalley.net)

Music Dept. Website: [www.huskymusic.org](http://www.huskymusic.org)  
HMDPA website: [www.HMDPA.org](http://www.HMDPA.org)

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

All classes listed below will perform regular concerts for the school, parents, and local festivals. Students this year will be exposed to recording studio concepts, professional performance environments, and music theory with an emphasis in cutting edge technology. All classes will either perform on stage at CA Adventure (they pay us!) or do a “recording” workshop backstage. We will be planning an optional overnight music festival as well this year.

### **Orchestra**

#### **Beginning String Orchestra**

This is the first step to becoming a music student. No music experience is needed. Students will learn the basics of note reading and explore the orchestra instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Students will then pick one to study for the year. There are Instruments available for student use if needed.

#### **Intermediate String Orchestra**

This class is the second step in the Hillsdale Music Program, and it’s designed for students who have at least one year of experience. They will experiment with new key signatures, different tonalities, a variety of bow techniques, and an extension of musical styles. Towards the end of the year, they will have the opportunity to either perform at Disneyland or go on the recording workshop trip with Beginning Orchestra.

#### **Advanced String Orchestra**

This is the top orchestra here at Hillsdale. Students in this class will further develop their musical skills and have greater opportunities to perform, such as Disneyland, local Solo and Ensemble festivals, and possibly the San Diego Chamber Orchestra.

### **Band**

#### **Beginning Band**

This is a highly accelerated first step in the Hillsdale Music Program. No music experience is needed. Students will choose a concert band instrument and then study it for the year. Students will participate in an optional recording session at Disneyland as well as concerts for our community.

#### **Intermediate Band**

This class is the second step in the Hillsdale Music Program. This class is designed for a student who has at least one year of experience but needs more time to develop with their instrument (i.e. hasn't mastered "Sawmill Creek"). They will experiment with new key signatures, different tonalities, a variety of articulations, and an extension of musical styles. Towards the end of the year, they will go to Disneyland for a recording workshop with Beginning Band.

#### **Concert Band**

This class is the third step in the Hillsdale Music Program. Students enter Concert Band after at least two years of training or with permission from Mr. Caldwell. We will be bringing in instrument coaches to work with students on their instruments on a weekly basis. Students in this class should also consider trying out for county, state, and all-southern CA honor bands.

#### **Symphonic Band**

This is the top concert band. It is only for those students who have shown excellent progress in the past and have a desire to develop their music skills to the utmost of their ability. This class will operate with a greater emphasis on ensemble performance excellence.

## **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

We have a great compliment of extra classes before and after school. Every ensemble before and after school will be asking for a participation fee for your child's participation. Participation in these groups is open to the entire school and is dependant on committed participation. Students enrolled in these before/after school programs will enhance their music skills and may even receive practice credit towards their regular enrolled music class. These ensembles' start-up times and enrollment procedures will be advertised through the school Daily Bulletin and our website. Every ensemble will have a unique attire.

### **Zero Period Jazz Ensemble:**

*Times: 8:30 - 9:30 M W F*

*Voluntary Contribution: \$30*

We have been given permission to rehearse the Jazz Band during Zero Period. Your schedule will be moved into the Zero period in room 101. Students will study many styles of music including Swing, Latin, and Rock as well as an introduction to advanced music theory and improvisation. The Jazz Band will perform in many community events and the overnight trip this year.

### **After School Drumline:**

*Times: Fridays 3:45-6:00 PM*

*Participation Fee: \$170*

Students will learn and perform a 15 min. stage show using percussion equipment. We will perform in community events, community concerts, and school concerts and compete in the overnight festival to a Southern CA Theme Park.

### **After School Mixed Ensemble Choir:**

*Times: Monday and Wednesdays 3:45-5:30 PM*

*Participation Fee: \$190 (includes the attire)*

This choir is an audition-only group open to all Hillsdale students, both girls and boys. No experience is necessary. Auditions will be based on singing abilities and effort. Once accepted, the student is expected to participate in all practices as well as other performances. Please see Mr. Hernandez for a choir packet in early September for additional information.

## **HMDPA** (Hillsdale Music Department Parent Association) [HMDPA.org](http://HMDPA.org)

HMDPA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) whose objective is to serve all of the music students in the Rancho San Diego Area. They usually meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday from 7:30PM-8:30PM in Room 101. (See calendar) Because of this organization's financing, we are able to provide all of the incredible opportunities you've seen in this packet.

Money: They ask for each student to fundraise and or contribute \$200 to support them that in turn supports the music classes. This contribution is tax deductible, and all money goes through HMDPA. See HMDPA packet for more specific details. The contribution pays for: polo shirt, Smart Music subscription, sheet music we play in concerts, instruments, busses, festival entrance fees, DVD/Blu-Ray production, concert costs, expert staff, non-profit filling expenses, insurance, running costs. It also enables every student the opportunity to participate at the fullest level. For 20 years, H.M.D.P.A. has supported students in their music endeavor by increasing our instrument inventory from 15 instruments in 1997 to the 250 instruments we have available today. We have never turned a student away in 20 years because of their support.

HMDPA will be providing Amazing Support Staff, Educational experiences and cutting edge software, busses for educational field trips and more.

### **SmartMusic**

We have been piloting SmartMusic for last 5 years and they just released a new version that is \$28 cheaper. HMDPA has to pay for this upfront. This software will revolutionize the music experience. It will make your job as the parent much easier. In the past you would sign a practice log not really knowing if they practiced correctly and the right material. We will be assigning music that will report back the grade and track practice time. This is a web-based software that can be used on any device including Chromebooks. If you don't have internet then there will be labs on campus before and after school students can use and we will accept old school paper practice logs as well.

You will have the option to upgrade to a full version (access to 40,000 songs) for \$40 if you wish. HMDPA is asking each student to consider making a contribution or fundraise at least \$8 to cover this expense. The Pup Level (\$50) covers this and the performance attire you need for concerts as well. See the HMDPA Packet for contribution levels and incentives.

### **Fundraising**

HMDPA will be providing many fundraisers. These are always optional. Some fundraisers will give you the choice of profits going to a "contribution" that includes incentives like VIP seats at concerts, DVD/Blu-ray of the concerts, and concert program recognition. Some fundraisers will allow students to put money towards our big Disneyland and overnight festival trips.

## **EVENT DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Festivals**

*Groups that participate: Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Advanced Orchestra, Jazz Band, Mixed Ensemble Choir, possibly Intermediate Band or Orchestra.*

They usually take place at a local high school or college during the school day. Students will be excused from school but will be required to make up any missing school work. The day after a festival, we will allow students to use the class period, if needed, to visit teachers for make-up work or lectures. Students will perform in their black formal attire. Judges will give us written and taped comments. There is usually also a clinic or a sight-reading session. These events are free to the public and very educational. We receive ratings (best to worst) of Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair and Poor. These are mandatory performances and thus part of the 45% of the academic grade directed to performances. There is no direct cost to students for these activities. (HMDPA funds our festival participation.)

### **Disneyland "Community Arts Showcase" CA Adventure**

*Groups that participate: Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Husky Band, Advanced Orchestra*

Disneyland selects schools based on an audition video; thus, this is not a guaranteed activity. Disneyland, in exchange for our public performance on one of their premiere stages, allows the students to enjoy the day in the park for *free*. The approximate cost for this optional trip is \$40 (Charter bus).

### **Disneyland "Recording Workshop"**

*Groups that participate: Intermediate Band, Beginning Band, Intermediate Orchestra, Beginning Orchestra*

This event is a music workshop that takes place behind the scenes at Disneyland. In this workshop, students get to record Disney music and watch their music to actual Disney movie scenes. Even though the trip is intended for the Intermediate and Beginning groups, it is open to all students in music dept. The cost is approximately \$150 (busing and Disneyland ticket, behind the scenes workshop).

### **Petting Zoo Concert**

*Groups that participate: Symphonic Band, Advanced Orchestra*

This concert is a demonstration, informational concert with hands-on experience. The Symphonic Band and Advanced Orchestra will demonstrate music and identify the different families of instruments for the audience. There will also be local music stores there with instruments to sell and rent. Then, the Symphonic and Advanced students will facilitate areas where students can try out some of these instruments. The target audience of this event will be the beginning students of Hillsdale and of all the local feeder elementary schools.

### **High School Halftime Shows**

*Groups that participate: Symphonic and Concert Band*

We will combine the Concert band and Symphonic band to participate in a Football game halftime show with our local high schools. The Hillsdale students will get a taste of what the High School experience may be like while being surrounded by a great community of band students. We have been on TV in the past for this.

### **School Assemblies**

*Groups that participate: Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Advanced Orchestra*

We perform for the school usually once a year. Students will miss some school but teachers have been very appreciative of these activities, and it is a great educational event for the school.

### **San Diego All-county Honor Band and Orchestra (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>)**

*Participation: Those who audition and make it in.*

This is an auditioned band comprised of students from all across the county. They will rehearse 6 times over a 3 week period and then perform a single concert for the community. We typically have the most students in the county. This is a very educational experience, and it exposes students to great directors, such as Matt Garbutt of the Symphony, Dr. Dan Nelson of Point Loma Nazarene University, Jeanne Christensen from Cuyamaca College, Dr. Shannon Kitelinger of SDSU. Normally, this opportunity is held sometime during the spring.

### **State Honor Band and Orchestra (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade only)**

*Participation: Those who audition and make it in*

<http://CBDA.org>

This is an Honor Band/Orchestra comprised of the best students of the State. The audition will be by CD. Mr. Caldwell will work with students to record and submit the application. The commitment will be one long weekend in San Jose CA Feb 15-18. The audition and application will be due late November. See Mr. Caldwell for required music and go to CBDA.org for scales and more info. College recruiters come to this event.

### **National Honors performance Series at Carnegie Hall**

*Participation: Those who are nominated, audition, and make it in*

<http://honorsperformance.org>

This event is for both Band and Orchestra students. Students are nominated by Mr. Caldwell. Unlike all other Honor Groups, students get to choose their own music for auditioning. Usually the music has to be submitted by January. Students will spend a week in New York rehearsing and sightseeing, culminating in a Carnegie Hall performance in late June. We have had 4 students make this ensemble!

## **GRADING POLICIES**

Check grades at <https://zangle2.cajonvalley.net/parentconnect>. The front office will distribute PINs.

### **SCHOLARSHIP GRADES**

#### **Citizenship/Participation.....35%**

- ♪ Daily Behavior
- ♪ Concert Attendance (There is no make-up work for missed concerts.)
- ♪ Extra credit will be given to students who have parents attending HMDPA meetings.

#### **Folder Check.....20%**

##### **Students need to have their music and Handouts organized**

- ♪ Most current music calendar (passed out monthly or on the website)
- ♪ Orderly music with pencil markings as requested by the teacher.
- ♪ Black Three Ringed Binder 1.5-2”

#### **SmartMusic Tests, Performances, and Practice Logs.....45%**

- ♪ Students will be tested using software based theory instruction “Music Ace” and playtests with **Smart Music**.
  - Any student that does not take home the school issued Chromebook or have internet at home will have the opportunity to use “Smart Music” in the classroom on iPads.
- ♪ Concerts are considered the “Final Exam “ and attendance is mandatory. (mark dates from calendar – only reasonable excuses are accepted)
- ♪ Students are expected to practice outside of class time 30 minutes every weekday(M-F). Practicing on the weekend counts towards your total, but we aren’t requiring it.
  - o Opportunities to get more time:
    - Private lessons on instrument count as double time.
    - Ensemble practice outside of classroom “half-time.”
  - o You will have to submit a paper Practice log

### **CITIZENSHIP GRADE** (also counts for 35% of your Scholarship grade)

#### **How to earn an A on a daily basis:**

- ♪ Come to class every day with all proper materials: complete binder, pencil, highlighter, and instrument.
- ♪ Be in seat ready to rehearse within **three** minutes of the tardy bell.
- ♪ Remain in seat during duration of class (unless you ask for permission).
- ♪ Respect the rights of others.
- ♪ Work cooperatively with peers. (i.e. working in groups and ensemble)
- ♪ Put away music and place instruments in the proper location.
- ♪ Clean area before departing room.

(Extra and make up credit will be given to students who go out of their way to help others.)

## **CLASSROOM DAILY PROCEDURES**

**With up to 70+ students per class these guidelines will need to be followed to have success!**

“You need to have great silence for great music.”

### **Entering the Classroom:**

- ♪ Students must enter the classroom quietly.
- ♪ You have to be in the room by tardy bell and seated by three minutes after tardy bell rings
- ♪ Get your instruments out in a timely manner; don't socialize in locker room.
- ♪ Get necessary equipment and stands.
- ♪ Percussion: all equipment must be set up and ready by 3min. or ALL will receive tardies

### **Locker room:**

- ♪ Storage room will be open before and after school. 8:30am-4pm (sometimes later)
- ♪ Place instrument in your assigned locker (not on floor!)
- ♪ Do not touch anyone else's equipment!! EVER
- ♪ If someone's instrument is in your locker, let your teacher know. Do not touch it.
- ♪ Place empty cases back in locker; do not leave them on the floor. Small instrument cases (Flutes/Clarinets) can be stored under chair during class.
- ♪ Do not dispose of trash in lockers. Please do not eat in locker room.
- ♪ The locker is not designed for overnight storage. Store at your own risk.

### **Rehearsal Conduct:**

- ♪ Students should not be talking or playing out of turn during rehearsals.
- ♪ Non-verbal communication methods are encouraged. You will learn some sign language.
- ♪ Do not get out of seat for any reason without permission during a rehearsal.

### **Handouts and Music Distribution**

- ♪ Music and handouts will be primarily passed out through Google classroom.
- ♪ Once you have printed it at home, please write your FULL name, period, instrument/voice part on the top of every handout.
- ♪ Place handout or music in appropriate place in music binder.
- ♪ Lower citizenship grade will be given for leaving music out or a chronic losing of music.
- ♪ Students who do not have a means for printing at home will need to request copies to be made by the “class librarian”.

### **Sight-reading School Music**

- ♪ School owned original music must never leave the classroom.
- ♪ After sight-reading, all music must go back to the Director.
- ♪ You are not to write on music with anything but a pencil. Any damage to music may result in the loss of the song for future classes to perform.

## **Communication Tools**

The Music program has established several lines of communication. You are not required to do any of the following listed items, but the success of your child will depend on communication.

**Music Webpages.** Very important information will be available on these web pages. This will be the crucial key to your child's success. *Please bookmark on your computer and explore.*

<http://huskymusic.org> Teacher website

<http://www.hmdpa.org> Information about our music parent foundation.

<https://zangle2.cajonvalley.net/parentconnect/default.aspx> On-line Grade book

<http://charmsoffice.com> This will be used for you to monitor money transactions and more.

### **Text Messaging**

Sign up for text message alerts...through remind.com

Find your class below and send the coordinating text to **81010**

- Beginning Orchestra @**begorche**
- Intermediate Orchestra @**8cac3**
- Advanced Orchestra @**b1995f**
- Beginning Band @**f4803**
- Intermediate Band @**hmsint**
- Concert Band @**6d099**
- Symphonic Band @**2e479**

### **Google Classroom**

Ensure Your child has signed up for the correct google classroom:

This will be used for assignments and music distribution.

- Per 1 Advanced Orchestra: **aqg9koz**
- Per 2 Intermediate Orchestra: **m68aq6z**
- Per 2 Beginning Orchestra: **eu35zs**
- Per 3 Symphonic Band: **it216a**
- Per 6 Concert Band: **mbvsqz**
- Per 7 Intermediate Band: **qidfsko**
- Per 7 Beginning Band: **9aqhn1**

### **Charms Office Music Management Software**

Update or create your Charms account.

- Go to [Charmsoffice.com](http://Charmsoffice.com)
- School Code: HillsdaleMSMusic
- Password: 1<sup>st</sup> time is your School ID#.
  - ◆ If you forgot what it was, please let your teacher know.
- Once you enter the site please update all of your info and you will be asked to set a new password. This site will be used for tracking money deposits, fundraiser profits, and trips.

## **EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR EACH REHEARSAL**

Hillsdale Music Dept and H.M.D.P.A. have some of these items (reeds, strings, etc) available in the classroom as needed and as supplies are available. **You may receive a letter or email with all supplies used by your child throughout the year.**

### **All Music Classes will need:**

- ♪ Pencil, highlighter, dry-erase marker
- ♪ Black .5"+ three ring binder with several 8 ½ x 11 sheet protectors with:
  - Name page, calendar, alphabetical music, method book (see below)

### **Strings instruments (violin, Viola, Cello, Bass):**

- ♪ Rosin, extra set of strings, rag or cleaning cloth, chin rest, shoulder rest, sand-paper any size.

### **Brass Instruments:**

- ♪ Valve oil, slide grease, cleaning cloth, cleaning brush.

### **Reed Musicians:(Clarinet, Sax, oboe, Bassoon)**

- ♪ At least 4 reeds - a box of ten is recommended (Vandoren is BEST)
- ♪ Cleaning swab, cork grease, small eyeglass flathead screwdriver.

### **Flutes:**

- ♪ Cleaning cloth, cleaning rod, eyeglass screwdriver.

### **Percussionist: (Drummers)**

- ♪ Percussion bell set kit (Beginning Band students only)
- ♪ Percussion stick bag: Snare sticks, hard and soft yarn mallets)
- ♪ Rubber practice pad (for home)
- ♪ Drum key

## **Music Class Textbook**

Beginning and Int. Orchestra	<b>“Essential Elements 2000”</b> by Michael Allen
Beginning and Int. Band	<b>“Standard of Excellence”</b> by Bruce Pearson
Concert Symph. Band	<b>“Foundations for Superior Performance”</b> Williams & King
Advanced Orchestra	<b>“Essentials for Strings”</b> by Gerald Anderson

## **Obtaining an Instrument**

Part of the instrumental experience is the responsibility and pride that comes from caring for and maintaining a valuable and beautiful musical instrument. You have two options:

**1. RENT/BUY from a local store.** (preferred) \$15-45 a month. All students are encouraged to rent or buy their own instruments. This can be done easily and relatively inexpensively at any music store. Rent can usually be applied to the purchase of that instrument or towards a better one.

**2. Borrow from School** (suggested voluntary \$30 donation for the year = \$.10 a day!) This is 100% tax deductible and counts towards the incentives in the HMDPA packet, as well as student incentives.

**\*\*Beginning classes will not use instruments until at least the third week. I recommend waiting until I can evaluate each student to find the best instrument for them, based on these four factors: Student interest, physical makeup of student, personality, and cost/availability of instrument**

## **Local Music Stores**

### **Alan's Music Center**

8510 La Mesa Blvd  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
619-466-1938

### **Sam Ash**

3148 College Ave.  
SD, CA 92115  
619-573-9669

### **Nick Rail Music**

12640 Sabre Springs  
SD, CA 92128  
858-679-7333

## **CONCERT PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

The visual appearance of a performance ensemble is an important part of a concert. The music can be enhanced with uniformity, and it shows a certain professionalism. This is one of the most important details that has given the students 41+ performances at Disneyland Park. HMDPA will provide the mandatory polo shirt. (PLEASE consider an additional \$25 donation to cover the costs. This is a 100% deductible on your taxes.)

### **Formal Attire:**

*Groups: Only* for Advanced Orchestra, Concert Band and Symphonic Band.

Formal attire will be used for formal night time or festival stage performances. The outfits for boys and girls are:

#### **Boys:**

- Black dress pants
- Black belt (if pants have belt loops)
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks (higher than just ankles)
- Black dress shirt (long sleeve with black buttons)

#### **Girls:**

- The above option for the boys **OR**
- Black dress below the knee. Quality Material. No colors other than black.
- Black Nylons or Tights.
- School Rules apply.

### **Informal Attire**

*Groups: Beg Band, Int Band, Beg Orch, Int Orch. Also, Concert Band, Symph Band, and Adv Orch for assemblies and football games.*

- Music department polo shirt (provided by HMDPA)
- Black dress shoes
- Black dress socks (higher than just ankles)
- Black belt (if pants have belt loops)
- Black dress pants (no Dickies or jeans)



**DUE: AUGUST 24th 2017**