

# **Fine Arts** **Handbook**



**Mount Calvary Christian  
School  
School Year 2020-2021**

**Fine Arts Director:**

**Kyra Lancaster**

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**Due to Covid-19, scheduled events are subject to cancelation. Certain ensembles are on break due to extenuating circumstances. Questions? Please email Miss Lancaster.**

## Fine Arts Calendar

Auction—

Music Retreat—

MS Drama Production—

HS/MS Christmas Concert—

HS ACSI Fine Arts Festival--

Choir Tour—

Fine Arts Dept HS & MS Musical—

Music in the Parks Competition—

HS/MS Spring Choral Concert & Art Show—

MS ACSI Fine Arts Festival—

**\*\*\*Times are subject to change\*\*\***

## Music Staff

Kyra Lancaster—Fine Arts Director (band and choral director), Private Lesson Instructor

Kyra graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a B.S. in Music Education. She instructs private lessons on woodwinds, ukulele, piano, and any other instruments upon request. Outside of school, Kyra plays in many different bands including a community band and a jazz band, as well as playing on her church worship team.

Gina Crick—Handbells, Tech Director, Piano instructor

Gina has been teaching piano at Mount Calvary for 8 years. She specializes in beginner piano, with starting as young as 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Cheryl Landis—Piano Accompanist, Flute and Piano Instructor

Cheryl has a B.S. in Music Education and has taught for over 25 years in the school systems. She also owned a music studio for 20 years. The major instruments she teaches is flute and piano of any level from beginner to college level.

### Tim Placeway—Brass Instructor

Tim graduated from Grace College with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, and from Indiana University with a Master's Degree in Secondary Education. He has been involved in Pastoral ministry and church music ministry for many years, and currently plays the trumpet in local community bands. He has taught brass lessons for over 40 years, and has taught lessons at Mt. Calvary for many years. He teaches lessons on trumpet, trombone, and baritone.

### Jim Martin—Percussion Instructor

Jim is a freelance percussionist and teaches percussion privately. He has performed at various venues including Gretna, Fulton and Dutch Apple. He has also played with various musical groups. He currently performs with Allegro, Lancaster Marimba Ensemble, Cody McSherry's band, March Masters and at a couple of churches. He also teaches for the Lancaster Academy of Performing Arts, and he has taught in the past at Etown College.

### Amy Allen—Piano, and Strings Instructor

Amy holds a B.S. in Music Education with a concentration in voice. She has been teaching piano, voice, and violin lessons at MCCS for 21 years. She has also directed the senior high plays and musicals for over ten years. Some of Amy's students have found careers in Music Therapy, teaching music in schools, and on National Broadway tours.

### Kelli Robinson—Vocal Instructor

Kelli graduated from Lancaster Bible College with a Bachelor's of Music in Vocal Pedagogy. She is excited to return to Mount Calvary to offer voice lessons. Her last experience with Mount Calvary was as the Music Director for The Lion King Jr. She looks forward to helping students cultivate the talents God has given them to glorify Him.

### Kristen Feucht—Piano Instructor

Kristen has been teaching piano for 5 years, and she is able to take students of any levels. Her degree is in special education, but she has a lot of experience in playing for weddings, graduations, funerals, and churches. During her time at MCCS as a student, she was also the choir/ensemble accompanist.

### Kira Wilcox—Vocal Instructor

Kira holds a Bachelor's of Music in Vocal Performance from Cairn University, where she gave junior and senior recitals featuring works by Mahler, Donizetti, Schumann, Debussy and more. Although a classically-trained soprano, Kira's roots are in musical theatre. Some of her favorite theatrical experiences are portraying Miss Adelaide in Guys and Dolls (Cairn University), Martha in The Secret Garden (Cairn University) and, of course, Jo March in Mount Calvary's 2014 production of Little Women the Musical (for which she was Apollo Award nominated). Miss Wilcox strives to give her students a well-rounded musical education, rooted in classical technique as a means for better, healthier singing in all genres.

# Music Ensembles

## **High School and Middle School Band**

This is a non-audition group for all students, grades 6th-12th. This ensemble performs in the Christmas and Spring concerts and also participates in the high school adjudication at ACSI. Students must take private lessons from 6th-8th grade to be a part of the band. Weekly practice sheets will be turned in for a grade.

## **High School Choir**

This is a non-audition group for all students, grades 9th-12th. This group performs in the Christmas and Spring concerts and also participates in the high school adjudication at ACSI. This group also goes on Choir Tour and occasionally visits nursing homes and other locations to sing during the school day.

## **Middle School Choir (on break)**

This is a non-audition group for all students, grades 6th-8th. This ensemble performs in the Christmas and Spring concerts. A select group of students from this ensemble will also participate in the adjudication at ACSI and the adjudication at Music in the Parks. Information for this selection is in the “Performance” section in the handbook under “Middle School ACSI” and “Music in the Parks.”

## **Middle School Small Vocal Ensemble (on break)**

This is an auditioned group for all students, grades 6th-8th. This ensemble performs in the Christmas and Spring concerts and also participates in the adjudication at the middle school ACSI. Membership is limited to approximately 24 students. Exceptions may be made by the choral director.

## **Handbells (on break)**

This is a non-auditioned group for all students, grades 6th-8th. This ensemble performs in the Christmas and Spring concerts. Membership is limited to approximately 14 students. Exceptions may be made by the handbell director.

## **Jazzband (on break)**

This is a non-auditioned group for all students, grades 6th-12th. This ensemble will meet during the regular band time once a month. This ensemble will perform in the Christmas and Spring concerts.

**\*\*\*A new policy this year: Students will no longer be able to make up tests, quizzes, or projects during ensemble rehearsals. This is a policy being implemented by the MCCA administration. Students will need to make these up during study hall unless otherwise arranged. \*\*\***

# Performances and Events

## **Auction**

This performance is for Middle School and High School Choir. Students will perform a short number at the start of the auction on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at approximately 5:50 PM. Time is subject to change. Attendance is recommended.

## **Music Retreat**

This event is for High School Choir and Band. Students will report directly after school on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and meet in the choir/band room (Room 003), and the event will approximately go until 6:00 PM. During this time, students will be working on music for the upcoming events and also basic music skills. Attendance is required (see attendance policy).

## **Middle School Drama Production**

Performances of this production will be on November 8th-9th. Students will be selected for this production based on their ability to perform in an audition. Details for this audition will be provided later in the school year.

## **HS/MS Christmas Concert**

This performance is for Middle School Choir, High School Choir, Band, Handbells, and Jazz Band. The concert is on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Band students will report on stage at 6:20 PM for warmup. Middle School and High School Choral students will report at 6:30 PM in room 003 for a warmup. Handbell students will report at 6:35 PM on stage for a warmup. Attendance is required (see attendance policy). Handbell students are also required to help put away bells at the end of the concert.

## **High School ACSI Fine Arts Festival**

This event is on March 17<sup>th</sup> at Messiah College during the school day. Students will leave in the morning around 7:45 AM and will not return until after 6:45 PM that evening. This event is for Band, High School Choir, and any other small groups or soloists in grades 9th-12th. Students will need to have their instruments and uniforms for this event, and they will also need to pack or buy lunch at Messiah College on this day. Attendance is required (see attendance policy).

## **Choir Tour**

This event is for High School Choir and it is from April 17<sup>th</sup>—18<sup>st</sup>. Students will travel and sing at various locations which are yet to be determined. More information will be provided for this event later in the year. Attendance is required (see attendance policy).

## **High School Drama Production**

Performances of this production will be on April 2nd-4th. Students will be selected for this production based on their ability to perform in an audition. Details for this audition will be provided later in the school year.

## **Middle School ACSI Fine Arts Festival**

This event is on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Messiah College during the school day. Students will leave in the morning around 7:45 AM and will not return until after 5:30 PM that evening. This event is for a selection of the Middle School Choir, Middle School Small Vocal Ensemble and any other approved small groups or soloists in grades 6th-8th.

Students will need to have their instruments and uniforms for this event, and they will also need to pack or buy lunch at Messiah College on this day. Selection from Middle School Choir will be based on behavior and participation during class throughout the year. Students will be receiving participation points each class, and a lack of participation points or behavior strikes will affect their chance of going to this event. For students selected, attendance is required (see attendance policy). Students not going to this event, will be given a separate assignment to makeup for the performance grade.

### **HS/MS Spring Choral Concert & Art Show**

This performance is for Middle School Choir, High School Choir, Band, Handbells, and Jazz Band. The concert is on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Band students will report on stage at 6:20 PM for warmup. Middle School and High School Choral students will report at 6:30 PM in room 003 for a warmup. Handbell students will report at 6:35 PM on stage for a warmup. Attendance is required (see attendance policy). Attendance is required (see attendance policy).

### **Music in the Parks Competition (MS Chorus)**

This event is on all day on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Hershey Park and it is for a selection of students from the Middle School Choir. This selection will be based on behavior and participation during class throughout the year. Students will be receiving participation points each class, and a lack of participation points or behavior strikes will affect their chance of going to this event. Students not going to this event, will be given a separate assignment to makeup for the performance grade.

## PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Our concerts are the end result of countless hours of rehearsal throughout the year. It is our goal to present a program that seeks to bring honor to the Lord and is a positive experience for our students. Because of this, every effort should be made to make sure everyone is in attendance. Without required attendance, it is not possible for us to put on a successful program.

Some exceptions will be made such as: extreme sickness, death in the family and other extenuating circumstances may be excused. However, this does not include work, non-MCCS sporting activities, doctors appointments (unless emergency), college trips, personal days, family outings, transportation problems, etc.

If a student must miss a performance for any reason, the director must be notified as early as possible. Except in the case of an emergency, we ask that at least a month's notice be given in writing and stating the reason for a student to be considered for an excusal (final decision will be made by the Fine Arts Director). Absence from school does not automatically excuse a person from a performance. If a student is too sick to perform, the director must be notified before the day begins so that he/she can adjust the program if needed. Notification following ANY program will be considered unexcused, and a failing grade will be given for that performance.

Please, notify the director for a request of excusal. DO NOT notify the office unless it is impossible to reach the director! All notifications must be made directly by a parent, not students. All unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction for that quarter.

**\*\*\*Students who are excused must make up the grade for that concert by doing a project assignment as determined by the director. This will include a listening assignment and evaluation. The assignment will then be graded and will take the place of the concert grade that was missed.\*\*\***

## Grading Procedures

Points are earned based on participation. Students are not graded on their musical ability or talent!

Performance Attendance: 40% of their semesterly grade will be based on attendance and successful participation at required performances. Participation includes arriving on time and being properly dressed for the event as well as proper behavior for the entire evening - on and off-stage. Students are expected to be quiet while other groups are performing and stay for the entire concert

**\*\*\*Excused Absences: For what is considered an acceptable excuse, refer to the Attendance Policy.\*\*\***

Participation: 40% of a student's grade is based on daily rehearsals. This includes good rehearsal techniques based on effort, behavior (talking during rehearsal), facial expression, posture, memorization, etc.

Quizzes/Practice Sheets: For choral and handbell students, occasional worksheets, quizzes over theory, concert evaluations, and journaling of rehearsals will be given and will make up 20% of the quarterly grade. For band students, this grade will be made up through weekly practice sheets and occasional assignments.

## Grading for Handbells

Some of the criteria Mrs. Crick uses when grading:

Circular motions

Looking up and checking the director and timing

Techniques correct – echos, gyro's, swings

Damping Correctly

Timing

Clean cut offs at the end

## Practice Sheets

Middle School Band students must fill out a practice sheet every week. High School Band students must fill out a practice sheet every other week. Failure to turn these sheets in will result in a zero for the week.

Practice sheets must be signed by a parent after student practices for the week. Parents, please do not sign the practice sheet until after the student has totaled up their practice time for the week.

## Uniform Policy – HS Chorus

A uniform will be provided for each student. It is the students' responsibility to keep it in as best shape as possible. Damage or unusual wear must be paid by the student. Students must wear black dress shoes with uniforms

There is a \$7 rental fee that will cover the cost for dry cleaning each year. They must be turned in the garment bags provided by the school.

## Uniform Policy – MS Chorus, Concert Band & Handbells

The following guidelines will be followed for performances of any kind. In order to receive full credit for the programs, all of the following will need to be complied with.

Girls:

1. Skirts must be black and at least to the bottom of the knees. Black dress pants are acceptable.
2. Blouses must be white and dressy (no t-shirts), no colors present.
3. Shoes must be black.

Boys:

1. Pants must be black and dressy (not cargo) and worn with a belt at the waist.
2. Shirts must be all white with a collar that a tie can be attached to.
3. Ties must be long and may be clip-on.
4. Shoes must be black and worn with black socks.

Note: If you have any questions regarding the above, please email me or call before purchasing anything!

## Fundraising

Fundraising is a great way to help lower your child's costs for the Music Retreat, Music in the Parks and Choir Tour.

### **Hershey Park – Volunteer in Food Services & Rides**

Here's how it works:

If interested, contact Kathy Kuntzelman for a list of possible dates.

[specialkz8@juno.com](mailto:specialkz8@juno.com)                      717-341-0410.

She will then contact the park to get you on the schedule. Each person volunteering (must be 18 or older) will earn \$6.00/hour for your child and receive a single (S) voucher for a ticket to Hershey Park. Occasionally, more than one ticket can be earned! The money will be sent to MCCS, and we will credit your child's account.

For Example: Two parents working for five hours on a Saturday will earn \$60.00 toward their child's expenses and two or more vouchers for tickets to Hershey Park as well!

**\*\*\*These balances will reset at the end of each school year\*\*\***

## Private Lessons

Private lessons on most instruments are offered through the school. Lessons are required for all band students through 8<sup>th</sup> grade but may also be required for HS students that are remedial or wish to play on a more advanced level. Lessons are \$18 per ½ hour unless otherwise arranged through a teacher. Lessons may be taken during the day or after school, depending on the schedule of the teacher and preference of the parent. Please refer to the list of our music staff when selecting a private instructor for your child.