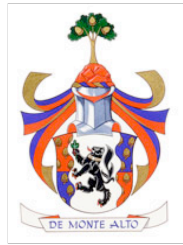


Mowat Music Department Handbook



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www.mowatpa.com

2015 - 2016

Greetings

Mowat is very proud of our award-winning music department. Recognized as one of the top programs in the province, Mowat offers courses in Band, Strings, Vocal, and Guitar. The numerous trophies and awards on the music room shelves are testament to the quality of our performing groups.

Combining the music department with an outstanding drama/dance/music theatre department makes Mowat an ideal place to pursue an education in the Performing Arts.

The Value of Music Education

Why Study Music?

There is a growing body of scientific evidence that shows that studying music makes you smarter.

“findings indicate that music study uniquely enhances higher brain function required for mathematics, science and engineering.” (Journal of Neurological Research)

“students who received musical training performed 34% higher on tests measuring spatial-temporal ability than the others.” (Univ. of California, Irvine)

“there is a direct correlation between improved SAT scores and the length of time spent studying music. Those who studied music for four or more years scored 59 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math portions of the SAT.” (U.S. College Board)

“The actual practice of making music can engage the imagination, foster flexible ways of thinking, develop disciplined effort and build self-confidence.” (U.S. College Board)

Music Department Website

www.mowatpa.com

Performing Groups/Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	7/8 Honour Strings		Symphony
	7/8 Honour Band		

*AMR Band , Intermediate Band, and Stage Band TBA

Performances and Events

Refer to Overview of Important Dates at the end of this handbook.

Concert Dress

Strings and Vocal Students: All Black (Black Dress Shirt, Black Dress Pants/Skirt, Black Dress Shoes, Black Socks)

Band Students: TBA

Travel

Our Music trips are always the highlight of our school year. Over the year's we have travelled to Washington, Chicago and New York. Last year's trip was to New York City where we attended an opera at the Metropolitan Opera House and saw the musical *Chicago* on Broadway.

Fees

This year, there is no Administration Fee for any course at Mowat. However, the costs of individual trips are still the responsibility of participants. If you have financial concerns or questions, please contact Dr. Leong at tony.leong@tdsb.on.ca

Program enhancement fees will arise on occasion. For example, instrumental students in all grades are strongly encouraged to have a personal tuner and metronome. Your music teacher will discuss various options.

Instruments

We have a large inventory of high quality instruments. Most students will be assigned an instrument that will be yours alone for the school year. Make sure your instrument is at school on days you have music or a rehearsal. Do not use another instrument without your teacher's permission. If your instrument is in need of repairs notify your teacher. Do not attempt to do repairs yourself.

Music

You will be given a music folder to hold any music and other materials. Make sure you bring it to class. Music method books will be assigned to each student. Students will pay full replacement costs for lost books.

Homework

Practicing your instrument or vocal score is your homework!

Grade 9	15-20 minutes a day on non-music class days
Grade 10	20-25 minutes a day on non-music class days
Grade 11-12	30-35 minutes a day on non-music class days

Music Department General Policies

RESPECT is a MAJOR expectation we have for this class. All students are to be treated equally and respectfully in the class. This class requires that you take risks and use your musical ability as a tool of expression – this can be scary. So we must have a classroom that revolves around trust and mutual respect. In order for everyone to be treated equally, the following policies and expectations must be followed:

We expect that you will be respectful with your behaviour and comments towards other students in this class at all times. We expect students to be quiet when others are performing, respond positively and with encouragement when others are trying new things, and work with **all** members of the class in a supportive manner.

BE ON TIME! Arrive to class on time! You will have 5 minutes to gather your materials, assemble your instrument, and begin warming up at the beginning of every class and time to pack up at the end of class.

Come PREPARED for music class with the appropriate materials every day.

- Instrument with all accessories (mouthpiece, reeds, chin rests, etc.)
- Music, a pencil, and a binder for handouts
- **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** in the music rooms.

TRY! In this class you may be asked to try new instruments, music, and techniques. It may be difficult at first but it becomes easier if you try your best. If a student is unwell a written note from their parent/ guardian must be brought to class. Students will still be expected to assemble their instrument and will be given the opportunity to practice without playing during class to receive

Music Department General Policies Continued

If you have any religious and / or cultural concerns about the course you must speak to me immediately. Remember that you have signed up for a music course that is based on western art music. If you are not comfortable playing certain instruments or music, then perhaps this is not the course for you.

At times it may be helpful for the teacher to guide your movements in order to demonstrate the correct hand or body placement. If you do not want this to occur, speak to us privately or write us a note.

Gum is **never allowed**. ONLY WATER IS ALLOWED IN THE ROOM. Bring a water bottle with your name labeled on it. There is to be NO eating in music rooms, meaning ANYTHING that you chew is NOT ALLOWED. If you choose to bring in food, gum, candy or a drink into the room you will be asked to leave.

It is your responsibility to make up missed work when you are absent from class when you return. If you miss an exam a doctor's note must be brought in. If you have missed a class you need a doctor's note or letter from your parents to excuse you from class. Without a note you will be marked as skipping the class and given a zero for that day's work.

We know that we are going to have a great year together. Please feel free to see us before/ after school if you have any other concerns you would like to talk about.

Music Staff

Dr. Tony Leong, Head of Performing Arts Department
tony.leong@tdsb.on.ca

Mrs. Dawn Hancock, Band Director
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Mr. Ian McLean, Guitar Teacher
ian.mclean@tdsb.on.ca

Attendance

It is expected that students will attend all classes, ensemble rehearsals and concerts. Only legitimate absences with a note or a phone call are acceptable. If you are involved in other co-curricular activities such as athletics, or theatre you are to make arrangements with your coach or teacher to share your time equitably between the various activities.

Co-Curricular Ensembles

Participation in a performing ensemble is a course requirement. The Ministry of Education Arts Guidelines list the following expectations:

Students shall

- Demonstrate leadership in rehearsal, performance and audience etiquette
- Describe the distinctive nature of participating in individual and group musical performances for a variety of audiences.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the creative process through live performances.

Evaluation Break Down

	Term I/II/III	Final Term
Knowledge/Understanding	28.6%	20%
• Theory		
• History		
Inquiry/Thinking	17.1%	12%
• Listening		
• Collaborative Ensembles		
• Creative Activities		
• Small and Large Ensembles		
Communication	35.7%	25%
• Playing Tests		
• Writing Assignments		
Application	18.6%	13%
• Listening		
• Collaborative Ensembles		
• Creative Activities		
• Small and Large Ensembles		

Culminating Activities

C1 (Theory Culminating Examination)

10%

C2 (Practical Culminating Examination)

20%

Missed In-Class Assessments/Evaluations

Performance and written tests are to be done during the assigned class time. If you miss a test due to illness or a school function, it is your responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher to do the test. You may retake any playing test any time within the term.

Assessment of Learning Skills

- **Independent Work** – Uses class time appropriately to complete tasks
- **Collaboration** – Accepts various roles and an equitable share of work in a group
- **Organization** - Arrives to class prepared and on time, meets deadlines with quality work and maintains a complete notebook
- **Responsibility** – Fulfils responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment
- **Initiative** – Looks for and acts on new ideas and opportunities for learning
- **Self-Regulation** – Sets own individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them

Mowat Performing Arts Department

Overview of Important Dates

September 17 th , 2015	Grade 9 Curriculum Night
October 21 st , 2015	Honour Roll and Awards Assembly (Senior String Orchestra Performs)
November 6 th , 2015	Commencement Ceremony (Senior Band Performs)
November 17 th , 2015	Grade 8 Parents & Student Info Evening
December 2 nd , 2015	Morning with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Senior Music Students)
December 2 nd , 2015	Theatre Mowat Production
December 3 rd , 2015	Theatre Mowat Production
December 4 th , 2015	Theatre Mowat Production
December 8 th , 2015	Music Christmas Concert
December 9 th , 2015	Music Christmas Concert
February 29 th , 2016	Sears Ontario Drama Festival
March 1 st , 2016	Sears Ontario Drama Festival
March 2 nd , 2016	Sears Ontario Drama Festival
March 3 rd , 2016	Sears Ontario Drama Festival
March 4 th , 2016	Sears Ontario Drama Festival
April 12 th , 2016	Music Cabaret Night
April 28 th , 2016	Music Banquet
May 2 nd , 2016	Music Spring Concert
May 3 rd , 2016	Music Spring Concert
June 3 rd - June 11 th , 2016	Music By The Lake Camp

**Please be reminded that the above dates are subject to change, and that there will be other performing or excursion opportunities that may have not made it onto this list at the time of publication.*