September 3, 2012

Dear Families of my Sixth Grade General Music Class:

Welcome to 6th grade General Music! General Music is a required class for all sixth graders. (Your student may also have signed up for 6th Grade Band or 6th Grade Strings, which are *electives*. Information about those classes will come to you separately.)

How 6th Grade General Music will be structured this year: General Music classes need to have three components: music theory, music appreciation, and vocal music/choir. For the vocal music/choir component of our General Music Class, students will no longer be able to fulfill their vocal music requirements by participating in our elementary and spring cantatas. We are now in Middle School!

Therefore, we have planned for them to have an outstanding choral experience by performing – as a Sixth Grade General Music Class Choir -- in the Middle School/High School Christmas and Spring Concerts. All rehearsing will be done during the General Music Class periods, so there will be no extra time requirements except to come and perform in the concerts. Most of the music theory and music appreciation requirements for General Music will be met as the student participates in the choir activities. **But to receive credit for the General Music Class Choir, students must perform in all of the concerts. Concerts are considered the final exam for each semester**.

We need a commitment from each family who desires to have their student perform in the concerts, especially since two of them are evening concerts. But we also realize that there needs to be a means to make up this significant (80%) choir component of the General Music grade if a student does *not* perform in the concerts

For students who fully participate in the Sixth Grade General Music Choir concerts: I have structured the class so that every student who participates as a choir member in the concerts should be able to complete their music theory and music appreciation requirements during the normal General Music periods at school without doing any homework.

Written alternatives for students who do not participate in the concerts: Students who do not perform in the General Music Class Choir may still earn their General Music credit by completing extra pencil and paper work in the music theory and music appreciation portions of the curriculum. These alternatives will be two written examinations in music theory per quarter, and one research paper on the life of a historically important composer (for music appreciation) per quarter. To prepare for the written examinations, I have written up Study Guides that students may work on and memorize while the other students rehearse their choir music.

Our school administration and I would like every sixth grader to enjoy the choral experience that we will provide for them, rather than doing the written alternatives. But remember, if your child is to receive credit for performing, **you must sign up for the General Music Class Choir using the Response Sheet (see below).** We really need to know who is planning to sing with us and we are hoping for 100% participation in the General Music Class Choir! ☺

Because of Calvary,
Robert L. Colaner, General Music Teacher

**(PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR CONCERT DETAILS AND THE RESPONSE SHEET. THANK YOU!)**

Mr. Colaner’s email address is rcolaner@xeniachristian.com.

His website is <http://MusicBySpecialArrangement.com/>.

**Concert Attire for Xenia Christian Middle School Performing Groups:**

Boys wear black pants (navy pants are acceptable for 6th grade General Music performances) and white dress shirts with neckties (not bowties or bolo ties). Shirts must be tucked in. Shoes and socks are to be navy, brown, or black.

Girls wear loose-fitting black pants (navy pants are acceptable for 6th grade General Music performances) and white tops. Tops may not be sleeveless or have straps, but must have at least a short sleeve. Tops must have high necklines. Shoes are to be navy, brown, or black.

**Concert Dates for Xenia Christian Middle School Performing Groups (High school groups will also perform in these concerts):**

Christmas Instrumental Chapel and Evening Concerts: Thu Dec 6, 2012
\*Christmas Choir Chapel and Evening Concerts: Thu Dec 13, 2012
Spring Instrumental Chapel and Evening Concerts: Fri May 17, 2013
\*Spring Choir Chapel and Evening Concerts: Tue May 21, 2013

\*These are the choir concerts in which the Sixth Grade General Music Class Choir will perform. The instrumental concert dates are included as well for completeness. All choir students are encouraged to support the Band and String Ensembles, and vice versa.

**RESPONSE SHEET
for 9/03/12 letter**

**This Response Sheet must be returned to Mrs. Baumann or Mrs. Pence
on or before Wednesday, September 5, 2012.**

**If you do not respond we will assume that you are choosing the written alternatives
to performing in the concerts.**

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Print student’s name

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Parent’s signature

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Student’s signature

Parent’s phone number[s] & email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best times to reach you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **\_\_\_\_\_** Our student is choosing to complete a substantial portion of the Sixth Grade General Music class requirements by participating in the General Music Class Choir.

We will abide by the dress code as described under “Concert Attire.”

We will put all of the concert dates on our calendar and will protect them, explaining to coaches and club leaders of our ***prior commitment*** to these required school events for which our student receives a grade. (Exceptions will be made for personal illness or family emergency. Lack of transportation does not constitute an emergency unless your vehicle breaks down ***on the way*** to a concert.)