September 6, 2012

Dear 6th Grade Strings Families:

Welcome to our Sixth Grade Strings Class! We can be excited at the prospects for such a large and talented group. With God’s blessing and with diligent work, our students should be able to achieve excellence in each of our concerts this year.To make your student’s membership in the Sixth Grade String Ensemble “official”, **please sign and return the Response Sheet** indicating your family’s commitment to have him/her perform in each of our concerts. We are asking you to come for **only two concerts** outside of the school day. (Of course, if you are taking the Sixth Grade General Music Choir option, there would be two more concerts as well). These two concerts serve as your final exam for each semester. If you are not able to commit to both of the required dates, it *may* not be realistic for your student to be a Strings Class member this year. If that is your situation, let’s talk about it and then make a decision together.

**Concert Attire and Concert Schedule.** The required concert attire and our schedule for the year may be found at the end of this letter.

**Folders and music.** Each student will be issued his/her own music folder with a set of sheet music. (The school may even provide lesson books instead of having the students purchase their own.) Occasionally the folder may include a CD for the student to listen to. This folder and its contents remain the property of Xenia Christian Middle School and must be treated with respect, just as would be the case with textbooks and library books. It must be returned to Mr. Colaner in good condition at the conclusion of the school year. If not, the student must pay to replace both folder and music. The folders cost 50 cents each. Sheet music is additional and the cost is usually $2 to $3 per title. Lesson books cost from $5.00 to $7.00.

**Grades.** Students receive grades based upon the criteria below. All students have an “A” in each category unless deductions must be made.

1. **Bringing to school** instruments, music, and completed Practice Charts *including parent initials where applicable* = **one test grade for all rehearsal days combined.**

2. **In-school concerts (Chapel Concerts) =** **two test grades**. Deductions may be made for tardiness to the warm-up room or failure to abide by the concert dress code. Deductions will be made for students who arrive without instruments or music. Students who fail to attend will receive “F’s” for their concert grade unless they are absent from school

3. **After-school concerts (Evening Concerts) = three test grades**. Grades determined as in #2 above.

4. **Quarterly Playing Tests** (not to be confused with optional *weekly* playing tests for advanced students who wish to be excused from practicing) = **one test grade.**Despite the cautionary tone of this letter, nearly all students will be able to earn an “A” for the year. They will also have a growing experience as they reach out in Jesus’ name to many in our community. You should also take note that all of my written communication is available on my website. You can even download the Response Sheets. (Checking all of the teacher websites once or twice per week is a really good habit.)

My email address is rcolaner@xeniachristian.com.

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

Let’s rejoice in the Lord together this year, and praise Him before all those who will be hearing us!

Because of Calvary,

Robert L. Colaner, Director

6th Grade Orchestral String Ensemble

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

Boys wear black pants (navy pants are acceptable for 6th grade General Music Class Choir 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 Class Choir 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

\*Although most 6th Strings members are also in choir, these dates do not pertain to the Strings Class itself. However, they are included for completeness and to encourage the students to support their colleagues in the choir.

**RESPONSE SHEET
for 9/06/12 letter**

**This Response Sheet must be returned to Mr. Colaner during our strings period
on Monday, September 10, 2012.**

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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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK THE STATEMENTS THAT ARE TRUE FOR YOUR FAMILY.**

**\_\_\_\_\_** We have seen the **letter** and the **schedule**.

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.)

We understand that students must have their instruments, method books & sheet music, and a completed Practice Chart at each rehearsal and concert to receive credit toward their String Ensemble grade.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_** We have seen the **letter** and the **schedule**.

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 -- *except those noted below for which our family cannot make a commitment* -- 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.)

We understand that students must have their instruments, method books & sheet music, and a completed Practice Chart at each rehearsal and concert to receive credit toward their String Ensemble grade.

 **(Write problem dates here.)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_** I have a question. Please contact me using the information above.