



SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are Sachem

Our Story

#WeAreSachem



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Elementary Music

Setting the Stage for Musical Mastery

As students embark on their educational journey in Sachem, the district maintains a keen focus on the progressive integration of music education to harness the potential of all students.

Students begin their exploration of song and sound during kindergarten, where they participate in a half-hour session of general music class once a week. As a part of general music class, students begin to practice basic music composition, learn folk songs and play music with auxiliary percussion instruments such as drums, cymbals, shakers and other hand percussion instruments. General music class continues through fifth grade for all Sachem students. In preparation for the participation in a performance group in fourth and fifth grade, general music students are introduced to music theory where they learn the basic rules and language of music. Complementing the classroom curriculum, all grades participating in general music also practice songs, which are performed during special events throughout the school year, including Career Day and Veteran's Day.

At each elementary school, third-grade students take part in a beginner concert where they incorporate various musical elements learned in general music class, including singing, playing recorder and choreographed moves to accompany the music. This concert gives students the chance to experience a performance setting before moving on to a fourth- and fifth-grade performing group.

Poised for Pitch-Perfect Performance

Upon entering fourth grade, students have their first opportunity to join one of three performing groups offered in each elementary school throughout the

district.

Each respective grade level has a separate band and orchestra with the chorus being composed of both fourth- and fifth-grade students. These performing groups meet weekly for one half-hour, small group instructional sessions during the school day, and the entire group meets weekly for rehearsal, either before or after school hours depending on the start time of each school. During this time students practice songs from the New York State School Music Association catalog and various other songs chosen at the discretion of the instructor in preparation for their seasonal concerts.

For the first time this year in Sachem, students who participate in an elementary performing group will perform together in front of a judge to receive their first music ratings. As the district continues to enhance the musical experience in Sachem, this June fifth-grade students will have the chance to perform a solo for a New York State School Music Association judge to receive a score. This is an incredible opportunity for the student-musicians to perform a solo for a judge before moving onto secondary music education.

To celebrate the talents of the district's student instrumentalists throughout Sachem's 10 elementary schools, a select number of fifth-graders from each building will perform during the annual Elementary Music Festival. Selection to this festival is based on an audition process. This year's event will be held on March 6 at 7 p.m. at Sachem High School North.



Secondary Music

Melodically Striving for Success

As part of the expansive secondary music curriculum in Sachem, middle and

high school students throughout the district are required to complete one music credit at each respective level.

To satisfy this requirement, Sachem students are offered many options, from traditional music classes to myriad performing groups. The general music class engages students in enriched musical activities, such as guitar, piano and basic music composition instruction. Once these introductory courses are complete, students are then able to explore the history of multiple musical genres, including rock and theater.

At the high school level, students interested in furthering their music education can enroll in Music Theory, Advanced Placement Music Theory and Song Writing. The Song Writing course, which is in its inaugural year at Sachem High School North, with classes being added to Sachem High School East next year, enables students to elevate their musical mastery as they compose and perform their own original music.

Experience Beyond the Traditional Music Room

Music instruction comes alive for students at the secondary level in Sachem through a wide offering of performing groups.

At each middle school, students have the chance to join the band, orchestra or chorus in sixth through eighth grade. As part of these groups, students attend instructional music lessons every other day during the normal school period, when they practice a collection of songs in preparation for their respective seasonal concerts. Students looking to further their engagement in musical activities may also audition to join the select orchestra, select chorus and jazz band that meet after school on a weekly basis.

Both Sachem High School North and East offer a diverse range of performing groups broken down into three levels consisting of a concert band, symphonic band and the wind ensemble, which is selected at higher grade levels based on student auditions. The orchestra is also broken down into three levels including concert, symphonic and chamber orchestras. The chorus is broken down in a similar manner as the other performing groups, with a general, treble and symphonic chorus. These groups meet for instructional music lessons daily, when they practice music selected from the New York State School Music Association catalog for their seasonal concerts.

Similar to those in the middle schools, high school student-musicians interested in furthering their participation in musical activities may audition to join the select chorus, select orchestra and jazz band, which all meet after school. In addition to their seasonal concerts, these musical groups performed throughout the community this holiday season, playing a collection of holiday songs at Long Island MacArthur Airport and at the last meeting of the Board of Education before the new year.

“The entire faculty of the Sachem Music Department is extremely proud of our students and their amazing performances during our busy winter concert season, which featured close to 40 performances,” said Justin Comito, chairperson for secondary music. “Day in and day out, their dedication and passion to music is displayed as they rise to the challenges and expectations presented by their teachers.”

This year, Sachem boasted an impressive showing at the New York State School Music Association’s All-State Festival, as a total of 10 skilled student-

musicians were selected to perform at its annual Winter Conference at the Rochester Convention Center in Rochester, New York, which took place Nov. 30 to Dec. 3.



Marching to Second in the State

Concluding an impressive 2017 competition season, the Sachem Flaming Arrows marching band finished second in the New York State Field Band Conference Large School Division 3 state championship held at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, New York. Sachem delivered a riveting performance of its field show, "The Witching Hour," earning a score of 84.35.

Further showcasing their musical talents outside of the traditional school band, students representing grades 8-12 from secondary schools across the district make up the Sachem Flaming Arrows Marching Band. Comprised of nearly 100 students, the dedicated musicians practice countless hours to compete at such an elite level. Each year the band participates in a competition season where they perform against eight to 10 other schools in each of its six events held in the fall.

"Our Sachem students worked so hard from July to October," said Marching Band Director Robert Normandeau. "The students put forth an immense amount of effort, and their dedication showed all season. They performed the best show the staff could ask of them."

This year the Sachem Flaming Arrows hosted its largest competition to date at Sachem High School East on Oct. 15, welcoming 11 schools with a total of approximately 900 students from across New York State.

Featured News



Lynwood's Musical Makerspace

Inspiring ingenuity hit a high note as Lynwood Elementary School fifth-grade students constructed musical instruments in their makerspace room out of everyday household items. [<Read More>](#)

Sachem Students Are All Business With Virtual Enterprise

High school students in the Sachem Central School District are receiving real-world business experience as part of the Virtual Enterprise class. In its third year at Sachem, the Virtual Enterprise class teaches upperclassman valuable business skills as they navigate each aspect of a complete business plan. [Read More](#)



Sachem Students Are a Step Ahead

Two times each week, a Lynwood Elementary School classroom transforms into a magnificent dance hall as fifth-grade students practice popular ballroom dances. [Read More](#)

Mindful Meditation at Nokomis

Third-grade Nokomis Elementary School students in Jennifer Swenning's class worked on mindful meditation practices as they engaged in a yoga class led by class mom Lisa Zimmerman. [Read More](#)



Grundy Students Talk Safety Tips

Kindergarten students talked safety at Grundy Avenue Elementary School during a recent injury prevention program provided by the Trauma Center at Stony Brook Children's Hospital. [Read More](#)

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Board of Education

The Board of Education is composed of nine community members elected by district residents to serve overlapping three-year terms of office. The Board has the responsibility to ensure that all students receive the best education possible, as well as to express and represent the views of the community in matters affecting education.

Upcoming Meetings**Feb 07, 2018****BOE Regular Meeting 7:30 PM****Samoset MS- Board Room****Feb 28, 2018****BOE Regular Meeting 7:30 PM****Samoset MS- Board Room**[Click Here to View All Agendas and Minutes](#)**Recent Presentations**

Student Accident Insurance - December 6, 2017

[See the Presentation Here](#)

Summer Enrichment Program - December 6, 2017

[See the Presentation Here](#)**2017-18 Board of Education Goals**[Read more about it here](#)

Important Announcements

Curriculum Council Presentation[View the Presentation](#)**Tri-State Consortium Self-Study**[Click Here to View the Study](#)**Superintendent's Letter on Vaping & E-Cigs**[Click Here to Read the Letter](#)**District Calendar Important Information**[Letter From the Superintendent](#)[Revised Calendar](#)

Upcoming Events

Click on the calendar below to view the calendar on the website.

Mission Statement

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