

Music and Performing Arts Handbook – WINTER MARCHING ACTIVITIES VERSION - 2019-2020

Sue Densmore, Program Coordinator – susan.densmore@tritonschools.org

Website: www.tritonarts.net

A Special Note for Parents

The Arts Program is a great way for you to be involved with your child's education. Throughout the year, your son or daughter will be in many performances. It is our sincere hope to meet you many times during the year's activities.

An events calendar is available as a single page download, and links are available should you wish to subscribe using your device, at our website – www.tritonarts.net – on the Events/Calendar page. In addition, groups with more extensive rehearsal schedules have separate calendars available for subscription.

As you already know, ***we need lots of volunteers*** to help us out at various events through the year. The more people we have involved the more fun it is for everyone. But know this – the most important ability is *availability*. We need you, but we don't want to suck the life out of anyone, plus, many hands make the work lighter and more fun!

There is plenty of room to be involved – even if you can only make one event. We will take any help you can give, at any time, for as long as you are available. We just encourage you to pitch in – and you'll hopefully have fun and get to know some amazing people!

The Triton Music Parents Organization (TMPO)

Joining in with ***the Triton Music Parents Organization (TMPO)*** meetings is one way to be involved, have a say in planning, and be right up to speed on all of our events. This organization provides tremendous support for the program!

TMPO has provided funds to help with stage drapery and rigging, as well as microphones and lighting. They paid the first year on our leased percussion instruments – the very ones some of your students will be playing. To achieve this, TMPO holds several fund raising activities throughout the year, and there are various ways to be involved from helping to chair an event to baking for a concession stand.

A major fundraiser coming this season is our home Winter Marching Show. It will be March 21, and we will need many volunteers working together to make this work. Please mark your calendar!

More generally, TMPO meetings are generally the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Getting involved can help our department, and your child's education, to become a real family affair! TMPO can be found on Facebook by searching Triton Music Parents Organization.

Communications

We make every attempt to be clear and communicate often. Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/tritonarts) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/tritonarts) and the web (www.tritonarts.net.)

For day to day reminders and other general info, we have **text message groups**, with a service called **Remind**. Students who are members of these groups must join these. **Parents are welcome and encouraged to join them, as well.** (We've noticed that students do not always pass along info in a timely fashion to their parents. ;-O) **Remind** works with any phone, but there are smartphone apps that are excellent!

To subscribe, text @twpg112 to 81010.

Another app that is updated, and more of a “one-stop-shopping” kind of thing, is Band. That calendar is updated electronically, we can share photos and videos, and we can upload itineraries and other documents there.

To join Winter Percussion, scan this code:



To join Winter Guard, scan this code:



Our **website** has a ton of good info, and we strive to keep it up to date: www.tritonarts.net.

If you go to our web site, there is a spot to **subscribe to our weekly newsletter**. It is published via email Monday mornings at 6AM, and contains reminders about what is coming up, deadlines, and news about what has been happening.

The school's address is:

Triton Regional School
Visual & Performing Arts
112 Elm Street
Byfield, MA 01922
ATTN: (name)

Phone: (978) 462-8171, (x1130 for Sue Densmore, the Program Coordinator)

Email: susan.densmore@tritonschools.org

Remind: suedensmore

Attendance Policy

Members of our group are expected to be at all events, rehearsals, and other activities. This is crucial to each group's success, as each member is a vital part of the overall product. We need you!

Please adjust work schedules to fit our schedule, and we can try to help facilitate car-pooling for those in need of that. Also, please let us know if something comes up or you are running late. We would rather not be wondering if you had a mishap on the way to rehearsal – we want to know you are safe. Family worries about family!

You are able to contact the directors through the Remind groups.

Awards

Students can earn awards according to years of participation and outstanding contributions to the program. Awards are not automatic. Students must attend all rehearsals, performances and other mandatory activities of the group(s), and make positive contributions to achieving the group's goals.

Students may also apply for scholarships for lessons and camps (music, dance, drama) in the spring. Awards and scholarships are funded by the Triton Music Parents Organization (TMPO). A complete explanation of the awards program is available in the music office.

Attendance will be considered when decisions about awards and scholarships are being made.

Code of Conduct

You may be aware that as a member of one of our groups you are a representative of our school and our department. Our department members have earned and enjoyed an excellent reputation within our school community and outside it - even receiving complimentary reviews from flight crews or hotel personnel on trips.

Please be on your best behavior, both when you are with our groups and when you are not. Rules and expectations are set forth to help you enjoy your experiences to the fullest, and to avoid the embarrassment and inconvenience which momentary lapses in judgment may bring. Make good choices, do your best academically, work enthusiastically, treat others with respect.

Also, remember that those who must take charge in a school environment or on a school trip are responsible for the safety and well-being of the whole group. This creates some pressure for those people, and making their lives easier is a kindness they will truly appreciate.

User Fees

The Winter Marching groups have a user fee of \$100. Instructions for paying those fees can be found on the Arts website – www.tritonarts.net.

Our registrations and fees are completed through My School Bucks, NOT the same system used by athletics.

- Go to www.tritonschools.org
- On the right-hand side, choose “Registrations and Payments”
- Look for “My School Bucks,” and click it.
- Find “Winter Marching,” and add it to your cart.
- Add your student name, and then follow the prompts to pay. (If you are on any kind of fee assistance this will automatically be figured in.)

Student Leadership

We utilize instrument section leaders to help run rehearsals, and Winter Guard Captains who have further leadership responsibility.

Our Winter Guard Captains are Renee Esber and Karoline Jacobs.

Section leaders are usually determined at the beginning of the season and are typically senior members of each section.

The staff is always on the lookout for people who might become leaders. These are people who show skill, responsibility, and commitment, as well as an ability to work well with others and serve the group’s success.

Staff

<u>Percussion</u>	<u>Guard</u>
Sam Densmore, Percussion Instructor (617) 875-4535 smdens@outlook.com	Liz Butler, Guard Instructor (978) 580-0695 Elizabeth.butler@tritonschools.org
Neil Butler, Visual Design and instruction	Neil Butler, Visual Design and instruction
Matt Denaro, Percussion Assistant Instructor	Laura Johnson, Guard Assistant Instructor
Josh Heselton, Percussion Assistant Instructor	
<i>Sue Densmore, Director (susan.densmore@tritonschools.org) (Admin items only)</i>	

Pit Crew

The **Pit Crew is absolutely essential** to our groups’ success.

The MORE the MERRIER on the Pit Crew – and no matter what level of commitment you can make, we can use you. We have stuff to move and keep in working order, and we need all the hands we can get.

Instrument/Uniform/Equipment Care

All members of the group(s) are expected to care for instruments, uniforms, and equipment properly.

Instruments should be kept clean and dried off. Percussionists really should own a set of sticks and mallets, but we do have those things at school. They must be kept in stick and mallet bags.

Members will be issued uniforms, but will be asked to get shoes (THROUGH US AT SCHOOL – the shoes are specific,) socks, and/or undergarments (which applies to color guard.) Uniforms should also be kept clean and pressed and hung up, washed regularly, etc.

Flags, rifles, floors, props, sound system, mics – all of our stuff – needs to be coiled/folded/covered/stowed properly after every rehearsal. We are short on space, and seem to collect more props as the years go by. PLEASE make sure things get put where they go!

Where's the Show?

Shows are at various places, and are listed on schedules/calendars and the main marching pages once we are registered.

As each show approaches – sometimes as late as the week of the show – we are assigned our performance times, and I open the individual show page with maps and addresses and itineraries – which I also email and post on Remind and Band.

Shows have an admission charge of \$8 and \$10, with admission to Finals being \$15. Members of the groups, staff, and Pit Crew are admitted free of charge.

There are concessions sold at each show, as well, and students should bring some money to take advantage of that. If they would rather carry their own food they can, but please be nut free.

Rehearsal Protocol

We must begin rehearsals on time. If this means you need to get to Triton before that time to finish getting ready, please do so.

Everyone helps with all equipment – both before and after the rehearsal. We have a lot to move, and it is unfair to expect the same few people to be staying late every rehearsal to put things away. The more helpers, the faster things are stowed.

Stow equipment properly. We have very little storage space, and we seem to collect props and equipment. All of this must be put away every single time we use it to prevent loss or damage, and to keep the band room functional for all the different groups who live there.

Guard members are asked to wear all black clothing to rehearsals, making it easier to clean all the visuals. Leggings, capris, yoga pants, tank tops, t-shirts, and long sleeve tees are all permissible for our rehearsing.

Percussion members should wear show footwear at rehearsals when we will be working on drill.

For shows, make sure you bring your uniform, instrument, a change of clothes for after the performance, money for concessions.

Homework: PRACTICE

You have a standing, every single night, homework assignment in this group.

Practice. For at least 15 minutes every day, spend time working on our music/equipment/body work. Go to the parts you don't know as well and practice them.

If everyone in our group does this, we will be more successful more quickly, and can get to fine tuning and expressive ideas that take coordination and rehearsal time to perfect.

This group will be only as good as the person who practices least. One person can hold the entire group back, and make the performance less successful. Don't let that be you.

Season T-shirts, jackets, sweatshirts

We always create a t-shirt for whatever show we are doing in a season, and we really hope all members will buy one. Please contact Sue Densmore if there is financial hardship – we will figure out how to help everyone get these.

Optionally, each group has jackets. If new members want to order these, they can. Price varies by design, so ask the group directors about these.