

## NYSSMA AND CCMTA

### NYSSMA Major and Solo Festivals

For this event, our groups will be preparing music that is coded by difficulty level in the NYSSMA manual. Just like other groups all across the state, we will travel to a local school in the county who is hosting a festival and be adjudicated on a musical rubric by a panel of 2 trained NYSSMA major ensemble adjudicators. Outcomes of this event are specific commentary about ensemble blend, intonation, and technical ability from the judges; also the opportunity to perform our pieces in a festival adjudication setting as well as a ranking of our performance that day as Bronze, Silver, or Gold at our level.

Students in grades 6-12 will have the opportunity to participate in a NYSSMA Solo Festival as well. Students will prepare a piece coded by difficulty in the NYSSMA manual and perform it for a certified NYSSMA solo adjudicator. Both instrumental and vocal auditions will have a sight-reading portion to assess musical reading skill, and instrumental auditions have an additional memorized scale requirement. Outcomes of this event are specific commentary about tone, technique and accuracy from the adjudicator, the experience of learning a challenging piece of music well enough to perform it, and a ranking on a numerical scale. Once completed, these official audition documents may be submitted for the student to be selected for an All-State performance group.

### CCMTA Winter, Spring, and Solo Festivals

CCMTA (Chautauqua County Music Teachers Association) hosts 2 performance festivals per school year. The Winter Festival, held in February at Chautauqua Lake HS, features an elementary band, women's choir, vocal jazz, brass or percussion ensemble (alternate years) and a jazz ensemble. The Spring festival, will be held May 20th at SUNY Fredonia, and features a junior high band and choir as well as a senior high band and choir, plus an elementary choir. Instrumental students are selected for participation at these festivals by playing an audition very similar to the description of the NYSSMA solo festival above at a CCMTA solo festival held the first weekend in February at Fredonia HS. Vocal students audition for their teachers and are recommended based on the teacher's assessment.

## TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY



Tri-M Music  
HONOR SOCIETY

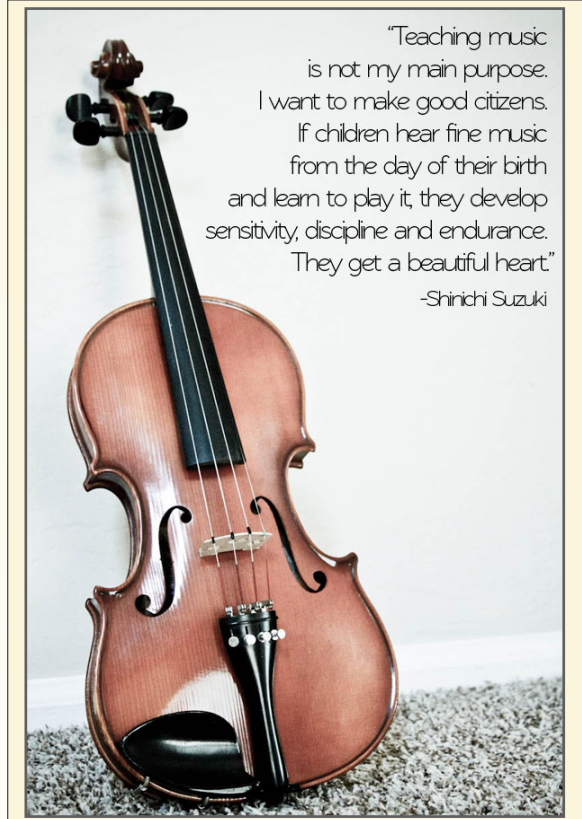
**Tri-M Music Honor Society** is a new offering for both chorus and band students at CVCS. It is an extension of the National Association for Music Education, the professional organization of music teachers of which all 3 our CVCS music faculty are members. Tri-M students must meet a minimum standard to be considered for membership. Music participation (enrollment in a school-sponsored music ensemble and/or class for at least one semester), academic achievement (in music courses and in other academic subjects) and character strength (demonstrating leadership, service, and character in all activities) are the qualities we are seeking for membership in Tri-M.

# CASSADAGA VALLEY

## MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

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## MUSIC DEPARTMENT



"Teaching music  
is not my main purpose.  
I want to make good citizens.  
If children hear fine music  
from the day of their birth  
and learn to play it, they develop  
sensitivity, discipline and endurance.  
They get a beautiful heart."  
-Shinichi Suzuki

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF:  
**MELISSA BEICHNER & J. NICOLE ZENNS**

There are many course offerings and extra-curricular opportunities for students in grades 6-12, as well as a several new events and groups to enrich the music program and build on the musical foundation already in place.

# Courses and Extra-curricular Offerings

## BAND

**Senior High Concert Band** is a performance group made up of 9<sup>th</sup>-12 grade students. The focus for this class is to refine individual technique and ensemble skills in order to be able to perform some of the standard British and American wind band literature, such as Holst, Grainger, Sousa, and others. Because Concert Band has the widest age and experience range, individual progress rubrics for lessons are used to show growth over the course of 4 years.

**Middle School Band** is a performance group made up of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. At this level, we are building on the ensemble skills of 6<sup>th</sup> grade band with more complex harmonies and aiming for a greater independence of parts. The literature for this group is broad and contains some easier standard band pieces as well as some of the many “teaching pieces” that have been written for middle school band in the past 25 years.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band** is a small group of only one grade level that focuses on repetition of basic concepts of ensemble and individual playing. Basic skills are so important, and having another year to build these students during 6<sup>th</sup> grade before blending them with older students is crucial or the foundation of a solid band program all the way up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Instrumental Lessons** are scheduled weekly for all students enrolled in a band course. Students are excused from one class per week for an instrumental lesson, and the schedule is rotating on a 4 period basis for 6-12 so they will not miss the same class until the next 8 day cycle. Lessons are 60% of the band grade, and individual growth is charted on a weekly rubric.

## CHORUS AND GENERAL MUSIC

**Senior High Chorus** is a performance group of students in grades 9-12. The focus for this ensemble is to expand on concepts of vocal technique, music theory, and sight-singing that were begun in Junior High Chorus. Students will perform a wide variety of standard choral repertoire, including music from different genres, time periods, and cultures, frequently singing in four or more parts and in foreign languages.

**Advanced Chorus** is a music elective for students in grades 9-12 who have demonstrated dedication, maturity, and a desire to develop their choral singing skills in a small group setting. Students will learn challenging music in three- and four-parts and will deepen their music literacy skills.

**Junior High Chorus** is a performance group of students in grades 7 and 8. Students will be learning to use good vocal technique with the changing voice, as well as building music theory and sight-singing skills to become more independent musicians. Selections performed at this level will include a wide variety of musical styles and cultures, and students will sing in three parts.

**Sixth Grade Chorus** is a performance group where students will learn basic vocal techniques and focus on posture, breathing, diction, and care of the voice, as well as begin to learn to read music and sight-sing. Unison and two-part music from various genres, time periods, and cultures will be studied.

**Vocal Lessons** are a requirement for high school students where they will be able to refine their vocal technique and study solo repertoire in a one-on-one or small group setting. This accounts for 10% of the high school chorus student's grade.

**General Music** is a class that all sixth and seventh grade students take. Students will be learning to read music while playing various classroom instruments, and will also be learning about music history, world music, and American music through a series of hands-on experiences and listening lessons.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

**Jazz Ensemble** is an extra-curricular group made up of students who audition for a place in the roster. The focus is to expose students to the style and techniques of performing in a jazz style and on learning the music theory to be able to improvise, although the repertoire is also rock and popular music. The format is that of a big band (sax, trumpet, trombone, and rhythm section) with some variation depending on who auditions.

**Valley Minstrels** is a select, advanced singing group. Students are admitted to the group following an audition process, and the group will perform at outside venues around the area.

The annual **Musical** is an opportunity for students to sing, dance, act, or play in the orchestra of a stage production. Students will learn to work together onstage and off as part of an ensemble.

**“A Night on Broadway”** is a showcase concert of some of the biggest songs to hit the stage. Students will audition for a spot on the program and will also be able to participate in the full group opener and closer. The event is open to both middle and high school students, and will be the Senior Chorus fundraiser for the year.

**Pep Band** will perform marches and pop tunes to help add excitement to game days. This is offered anyone in the band program from 6<sup>th</sup>-12 grade, and will require 3-4 rehearsals for each performance. Pep Band will possibly make more appearances throughout the year at other sport events as practical.

### NEW FOR 2016-2017:

**Group Voice Class** will study solo singing and vocal technique to learn to perform as soloists and as part of a small group for duets and trios. Students will perform selections from both classical and musical theatre repertoire and there will be many opportunities to perform in masterclasses and mock auditions.

**Musical Theatre** is a performance based class. Students will learn about the history of musical theatre, as well as analyze scenes from professionally staged Broadway musicals. Students will learn acting techniques, work behind-the-scenes on aspects of technical theatre, and will learn how to direct, choreograph, stage manage, and perform scenes from a variety of musicals.