

NVOT Music Department

Golden Knights Music Parents Association



November 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians of Future NVOT Students:

We are fortunate that our children attend wonderful schools and have many opportunities and activities available to them, both within and outside of the school system. Sometimes it is hard to choose between all of the options. This information is being sent to let you know about one of the great choices available to them at NVOT...MUSIC!

The Golden Knights Music Parents Association (GKMPA) exists to support the NVOT music programs and all the students who participate, instrumentally and vocally in orchestras, choirs, ensembles, competitions, musical theater, and in marching band at football games, festivals and parades. As parents of high school musicians, Chona and I are very pleased that our children have this wonderful educational opportunity. We wanted to share with you some information about the NVOT Music Program and the GKMPA organization, and to personally invite you, your child(ren), family and friends to the many student performances. We believe you will find them very impressive and entertaining.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – Please read over the calendar of this year’s musical events. Attending one or more of the many performances is a great way for you and your child to get a feel for the NVOT Music Program. The performers love a great audience and the experience is very worthwhile!

OVERVIEW OF THE NVOT MUSIC PROGRAM - We have included some general information about the various programs available at NVOT that you and your child may want to start thinking about. Registration for high school classes will be here before you know it!

PARENT TO PARENT-JUST BETWEEN US – These are comments and the “inside scoop” from members of GKMPA who are parents of music students.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS MUSIC PARENT ASSOCIATION (GKMPA) – This is a description of the goals of the organization and what we do. Also included is a list of the Officers and Committee Chair-people. Feel free to contact any of us with questions, for more information, or just to chat.

We are excited to share the good word about NVOT music and hope you find this information to be helpful. On behalf of all of us music parents, we wish you all the best as you help your child make all of his/her exciting high school choices.

Sincerely,

Stratos J. Mandalakis
President

Chona Dizon-Freedman
Vice President



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 23th – 65th Annual North Jersey Band Festival
Golden Knights Marching Band

Thursday, October 27 – Fall Instrumental Concert 8:00 pm (Auditorium)
Wind Symphony, Concert Band, String Ensemble, Marching Band

Tuesday, November 3 – Vocal Music Showcase 8:15 pm (Auditorium)
Choir, Chorus, Chamber Singers, Glee Club, Soloists and Small Ensembles

Wednesday, December 21 – Holiday Concert 8:00 pm (Auditorium)
Wind Symphony, Concert Band, String Ensemble, Choir, Chorus, Chamber Singers, Glee Club

Wednesday, February 29 – All-School Musical Dress Rehearsal (open to Senior Citizens; tickets required) 6:00 pm (Auditorium) Free admission, reserved seats, tickets required. Tickets assigned preferentially to Senior Citizens of the seven boroughs of the Northern Valley

Friday-Sunday, March 2-4 – All-School Musical: The Wedding Singer
Friday 7:00 pm, Saturday 7:00 pm, Sunday 2:00 pm (Auditorium)
Reserved seats, tickets required.

Thursday, March 22 – Prism XXI Concert 8:00 pm (Auditorium)
Our multi-dimensional instrumental concert! Wind Symphony, Concert Band, String Ensemble, Jazz Band, Chamber Ensembles, and soloists.

Wednesday, March 28 through Sunday, April 1 – Music Department Festival Trip to Disney World Orlando, Florida.
Wind Symphony, String Ensemble, Choir

Thursday, April 26 – Spring Choral Concert 8:00 pm (Auditorium)
Choir, Chorus, Chamber Singers, Glee Club, Soloists and Small Ensembles

Tuesday, May 22 – Fine Arts Festival 7:00 pm (Auditorium))
Jazz Band and selected soloists

Monday, May 28 – Memorial Day Parades at 9:30 am in Harrington Park and 11:00 am in Norwood Marching Band/Color Guard

Tuesday, June 5 – Awards Concert 7:30 pm (Auditorium)
Wind Symphony, Concert Band, String Ensemble, Jazz Band, Choir, Chorus, Chamber Singers, Glee Club

OVERVIEW OF NVOT MUSIC PROGRAMS

ABOUT INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The instrumental music opportunities at NVOT are top quality and very diverse. Elective performance courses include: Concert Band for 9th graders, Concert Strings for 9th graders, Wind Symphony for 10th through 12th graders, String Orchestra for 10th through 12th graders, and Beginning Band for 9th graders who wish to start a band instrument with the intention of continuing in band in the future. All of these elective performance courses are regular, graded classes and meet September through June during the school day on the same frequency as any other non-music class. Additional ensembles for students interested in participation outside of class include the Jazz Band (membership by audition; registration in a Music Department performance course is required), and several other ensembles whose membership is chosen from the performance courses by the director (String Quartet, Chamber Ensemble, Musical Theater Pit Orchestra, etc.).

ABOUT CHORUS & CHOIR

NVOT offers a wonderful variety of vocal opportunities. The introductory vocal music elective is Concert Chorus. Students who elect Chorus are introduced to the basics of vocal technique and reading music. They sing music from many musical eras and a variety of styles. Students move on to the next level by electing Concert Choir. In Choir, music of a more advanced level is selected for study and performance as students continue to expand their personal musicianship skills. Concert Choir may be elected for three years. Participation in either Chorus or Choir is an elective, fully graded class that meets September through June during the school day. Students participate in at least 4 major performances per year. Both boys and girls are needed for Chorus and Choir as music is sung in four parts; Bass, Tenor, Alto and Soprano. Interested freshman participate by selecting Concert Chorus as one of their electives when planning their freshman schedule.

ABOUT MARCHING BAND

Marching Band includes instrumentalists (woodwinds, brass, and percussion) and color guard participants, freshman through seniors. All 10th through 12th grade students in Wind Symphony must participate in Marching Band (exceptions are made for students participating in good standing in a fall NVOT sport and for special circumstances; it is optional and recommended for all freshmen Concert Band members). Marching Band is an excellent way for a student to continue to participate in a music activity even though the student may have chosen other non-instrumental elective classes. Marching Band participants attend band camp for one week during late August each year, and their weekly participation occurs from September through Thanksgiving Day only, plus participating in the two Memorial Day parades annually. The 2011 show features the music of Jersey Boys.

New! Non-Performance Music Elective **EXPLORING MUSIC!**

The OT music department has seen lots of activity and enthusiasm from students who are taking advantage of the recent school district purchase of acoustic guitars, which are currently in use in the new non-performance music elective called Exploring Music. Students enrolled in this class learn how to play the guitar and read music; they create original music and projects with computers; and they listen to and learn about the development of American popular music since the 1950's.

ABOUT MORE COMPETITIVE MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

NVOT music students participate in various adjudicated competitions and festivals each year. NVOT's best musicians frequently audition and compete for participation in Bergen County Chorus, Bergen County Band, All State Chorus, All State Band. Seniors who've completed the prerequisites may elect Honors Choir; Honors Wind Symphony and Honors String Orchestra. These students have fun, meet new students from other towns with common interests, and, in our humble opinion, put on performances that rival Carnegie Hall.

ABOUT MUSICAL THEATER

The annual NVOT All-School Musical Production is renowned for its excellence and has been the recipient of many awards. Last year, NVOT produced *Beauty and the Beast*. This year *The Wedding Singer* will be performed on March 4-6, 2011. An information meeting is held annually in mid-September and auditions take place in November. Student participation is an extra-curricular activity (club credit) with rehearsals running from late November through March. Students utilize their many individual talents as actors, actresses, instrumental musicians, singers, dancers, or as part of the crews handling set construction & painting, costumes, hair/makeup, lighting, and sound. For more info & tickets (available the beginning of November) go to www.nvotmusical.org.

ABOUT CO-CURRICULAR CHORAL OPPORTUNITIES

NVOT offers further challenging vocal opportunities through participation in a select ensemble called CHAMBER SINGERS - Membership in Chamber Singers is by audition. Students registered in Choir or Chorus are eligible to audition in early September. This choral ensemble is designed for skilled and committed male and female singers, capable of performing challenging music for multiple parts. It is expected that students selected for this ensemble will make a full year's commitment to the ensemble! Significant choral repertoire from all historical periods and styles, both accompanied and a cappella, will be rehearsed and performed. A weekly rehearsal will take place on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:45 pm. All members must participate in four evening concerts, three in-school performances in December, and, when called upon, sing for local community events throughout the year.

OT GLEE CLUB

Membership in OT Glee Club is open to all NVOT students. There is NO pre-requisite. A weekly rehearsal will take place on Monday evenings from 8:00-9:15 pm. Club credit will be awarded to students who make a full year's commitment to the posted rehearsal and performance schedule. Glee Club members must participate in three evening concerts, and three in-school performances in December.

OT GUITAR CLUB

The new OT Guitar Club was created to give all students the opportunity to play guitar. Students with guitar playing skills lead this club as they work with both novice players and those with guitar playing skills. Once a week meetings take place after school.



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ABOUT THE TRIPS

A frequent question we get from incoming students is “Can you tell us about the trips?” students in Concert Band and Concert Chorus participate in a daytime field trip where they perform at an out of town festival/competition, followed by a leisure activity. This year students in Band will go to the Hershey Music Festival and students in Chorus will attend a Choral Festival at Rutgers University, and then will see a Broadway Show in NYC. Students in the upper class music performance classes will attend a 3-4 day trip that includes participation in a festival/competition, and exciting leisure activities. Their trip this year is to Disney World.

“PARENT TO PARENT – (Just Between Us)”

“The String Orchestra is of such high quality that I feel like I’m at Carnegie Hall when I go to the concerts. There is no doubt that I will still attend the NVOT concerts long after my child has graduated high school.”

“The Marching Band Family provided both of my freshman sons with a welcoming group of friends who made their transition into high school a wonderful experience.”

“The high school music program is much different as it’s a scheduled class. There is a good deal of bonus enjoyment to get out of that atmosphere. The camaraderie begins in the music room and filters into other classrooms, the All School Musical production, Marching Band, trips and more. There is a place for everyone at the high school.”

“I can't say enough about my child's involvement in the music program throughout the years at NVOT. What is fostered and learned on a daily basis is confidence, pride, teamwork, self-discipline, responsibility, gratification of fabulous accomplishments and results (concerts and performances), the value of strong, on-going friendships, leadership, dedication, and respect, not to mention, a great musical education and a lot of fun. These are skills, memories and on-going appreciation they will have for a lifetime.”

“My daughter joined the Color Guard in freshman year and continues now in her senior year to find it a lot of work, but more importantly, a lot of fun. She thinks this is one of the nicest groups of kids in the school, and I agree. She enjoys meeting the kids before school begins during the band camp week in August, and finds the friendships she’s made remain throughout the year, not just during the season.”



NVOT Music Department

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The Golden Knights Music Parent Association includes parents, friends of students, alumni, and faculty who encourage, promote and support the Northern Valley Old Tappan Music Department and all musical activities conducted by the school.

We support the program:

Financially Through dues, donations, and various fundraisers. The GKMPA funds many student scholarships, awards, and recognition programs, provides light hospitality for events, and covers publishing and mailing costs for the Music Times newsletter and information for members and the community about events and programs.

With our time We assist with such activities as publicity, chaperoning at football games, festivals, auditions, rehearsals, and trips, design and distribution of mailings and communications, costumes, make-up, hair, ticket sales, etc. for the annual theatrical production. We help with distribution and collection of uniforms and concert attire as well as design and implementation of various fundraisers including the music department clothing sales, holiday poinsettia sales, restaurant fundraisers, raffle tickets, selling refreshments at events, etc. AND, we get to meet and know many new friends, (the parents of our children’s friends and classmates), and have great fun while we’re supporting this incredible NVOT program!!!

Please feel free to contact any of our Teachers, Officers and Committee Chair-people for more information.

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