January 17, 2020

Parents and Students,

The purpose of my letter is to provide you with information regarding District Orchestra Assessment Festival and our preparation for a great performance. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support.

Orchestra Assessment Festival is the most important event of the year for school music groups in the state of Virginia. Many weeks of preparation and lots of practice go into producing success on the day when it finally arrives. Everyone must be giving their best effort and co-operation as we finalize our preparations for this important event.

Our **required rehearsals** will be each Tuesday after school during activity bell during the month of February: Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, and Feb. 25. Also, an afterschool rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, March 5. Parents, parent pick-up must be done no later than 5:00. If that isn't possible, your child must ride the activity bus home.

Each rehearsal is worth 200 points as stated in the class expectations.

Our **required Pre-Assessment Concert** will be Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2019, at 7:00 pm in our school’s auditorium. Students must arrive at ODS in concert attire and be in their seats in the orchestra room at 6:15 to tune and warm up. This will be a concert of our assessment selections and will include Bayside High School Advanced Orchestra and Landstown High School Chamber Orchestra. Parents, please plan to attend this important concert to provide an audience for us and to hear how our students are playing and to witness their stage presence. Performances are worth 300 points as stated in the class expectations.

Assessment performance day and time has not been determined as of this date. However, we will know our assigned performance time around February 22. When I receive our day and time, I will provide you an itinerary for either Friday, March 6 or Saturday, March 7.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Baird