**Music Buddies Program Overview & Family FAQ**

Thank you for your interest in the Music Buddies Program! Please read this overview before returning the signed waiver which can be found below.

***FAQ:***

**What is the purpose of this program?**

Music Buddies is a program that aims to introduce younger musicians to new, wide-ranging opportunities and a chance to improve their music skills.

**What will the sessions consist of?**

Advanced high school musicians will be assigned a “buddy”, or a student in the elementary/middle school, to meet periodically, either in person or over zoom, to create music together. The notion of “creating music” encompasses a wide range of possibilities, including but not limited to: aiding younger students with school band pieces, reviewing NYSSMA/music exam pieces/any music younger students are working on, playing a duet with the student to further develop their musical skills and build their musical confidence, and more. “Buddy concerts” will be held throughout the year to support these buddy groupings and give younger kids performance opportunities.

**Scheduling & Logistics:**

Once we have matched a middle school buddy with a high school musician, the high school student will be in touch with the parent or guardian and provide possible meeting options after school, usually between the hours of 3 and 6:30pm on weekdays. Each pair will typically meet once a week for around 40 minutes, in person or over zoom.

**Will the sessions be monitored?**

Unfortunately, we **do not** have the staff to monitor the buddy meetings. The school’s role will be to match up the buddies to the best of our abilities, and then the high school volunteers will be responsible for setting up the sessions and communicating with families. The high school volunteers will log their sessions and we will touch base with you to verify the hours and make sure everything is going smoothly. **In order for this program to be successful, we rely on your cooperation. Our expectation is that the parent or guardian will provide adequate supervision during the virtual sessions.** We strongly recommend that you pop in on the first session to “meet” the high school buddy!Any issues or concerns can be communicated to [insert advisor name and email].

**How will the buddies be chosen?**

We have a similar interest form for high school students to fill out, and we do our best to find matches that work. The high school student musicians who volunteer are almost always incredibly dependable and motivated. Our goal is to match high school and middle school buddies who play the same instrument. If there is ever an issue with a match, we will do our best to find a better fit.

**Once I return the signed waiver, what are the next steps?**

Please be patient as we work through the logistics on our end. As soon as possible, we will match up high school musicians with their middle school buddies, and then the high school student will contact the parent/guardian with some potential meeting times.

**YES! WE UNDERSTAND THE EXPECTATIONS!**

Please sign and return this waiver after your child fills out the **Music Buddies Sign Up Form**, posted on the Music Buddies Google Classroom, if they have not already.

 If you have multiple children, please fill out the **waiver form** once for **each** child. This can be scanned and submitted electronically via the assignment on the Music Buddies Google Classroom, or returned via email to [insert advisor email].

***Contact Information:***

[insert advisor email]