

# HAR-BUR MIDDLE SCHOOL ENSEMBLE CONTRACT

## PHILOSOPHY

The quality of every Middle School and future High School ensemble is dependent upon the hard work and determination of each student and the unit as a whole. For a Middle School student to achieve success within the group is dependent upon three things:

1. RESPECT: Respect for oneself, each other, the principles and ideals of the school and community; and most importantly, the respect for the integrity of the music being performed.
2. DISCIPLINE/DEDICATION: The maturity and responsibility to act in an appropriate manner within rehearsals and performances at all times. To demonstrate high standards of performance which can only be achieved through regular practice and hard work. One of the most important responsibilities is to attend all concerts and functions throughout the school year. No ensemble can be successful without such a commitment from its players.
3. CONCENTRATION: A level of higher thinking in which the true emotion and power of the music can be appreciated. It is not merely the mechanics, (i.e. rhythm and notes) but an indescribable feeling that can only be achieved by pushing oneself and the ensemble beyond what is believed they can achieve.

## TERMS

As a member of a Har-Bur instrumental ensemble, I understand that:

1. There are only 4-5 major performances throughout the entire school year. ATTENDANCE AT ALLFUNCTIONS IS MANDATORY with the exception of personal illness or family emergency. The integrity of the ensemble must be maintained for the sake of all students involved. Every ensemble is also a class that carries a grade. A student's standing will be seriously affected should he/she not attend a performance without parental notification.
2. Continued daily practice (at least a little bit) is essential to maintain one's "edge" as well as keep up with the ensemble throughout the year.
3. Proper behavior and self-control in class, rehearsal and during performances is of the utmost importance. Consequences due to continual behavioral problems will be severe. (See Below)
4. I must be prepared for the responsibilities associated with being a future member of a high school ensemble. The expectations at the high school level will be much easier if the proper practices are reinforced now while in middle school.

A student will be asked to **resign** from the ensemble should:

- A.) He/she be referred to the office more than once due to disruptive behavior. On the first offense the parent will be contacted (via phone) in the hopes that the behavior will improve.
- B.) He/she demonstrate no effort to enhance the quality of the ensemble (i.e. no practice, negligible lesson attendance, unexcused absences from performances).

## AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby agree to the terms  
Student - (printed name) Student - (signature)  
of this contract as a performing musician within Har-Bur Middle School.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_