

Concert Etiquette Guidelines

For respectful audience behavior during a concert



There are a variety of programs presented by the Monticello Music Department throughout the year. Comparable to an artist, who begins painting on a blank canvas, musicians must begin from silence. Both performers and listeners benefit from a quiet atmosphere during a concert or theatrical performance. Any conversation or movement can distract the performers and diminish the overall experience for all involved. Furthermore, a quiet atmosphere clearly indicates to our young performers that the audience is enjoying their performance.

The following are some guidelines established by the Music Educator's National Conference (MENC) to follow when attending a live performance. These guidelines are being taught in our classrooms throughout the district:

- **Refrain from talking: This is the first and greatest rule. This rule includes whispering to or disciplining your other children.**
- **Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance. If the composer wanted to include crinkle paper noises to the music, he/she would have written it into the parts.**
- **Turn off pagers, cell phones, and watch alarms: While many phones and pagers now have very symphonic-like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score, nor do they provide pleasant sounds for your neighbors.**
- **Do not wave to your child during the concert: After all, they do know who you are already and they know you are there; you most likely brought them to the concert.**
- **Do not take flash photography: You don't want your child to walk off the edge of the stage from flash blindness, do you?**
- **Please do not walk down the center aisle with your video camera: Video cameras work just as well from the back of the auditorium - (besides, the light is usually not good enough for video taping anyway.)**
- **Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over: All of the students deserve a full audience for their performances. Remember, the next time your child's song could be last!**

- **Applaud at appropriate times: Some music has several sections. Remember, it's not over until all of the sections have been performed.**
- **Do not leave the auditorium during the music: Wait for a break in the concert to visit the restroom, unless you are carrying a screaming child, in which case you should leave quietly and quickly, PLEASE!**
- **Go to the concert expecting the best: You just might be surprised how good your student sounds when the other students join in!**

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and compliance.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Monticello's Director of Music, Dr. Kevin Dirth, at 794-8840, ext. 10993.