



A Program of soundscapes

## **Student/Parent Guide**

**September 2021 – June 2022**

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## **General Purpose**

Soundscapes is an El Sistema-inspired youth development program, which strives to give students a life steering after-school experience. Through the program, students will strengthen their self-image, discipline and leadership skills.

## **Program Schedules:**

Peninsula Youth Orchestra at Gildersleeve Middle School: 1 Minton Dr. Newport News 23606

- Tuesday (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm)
  - String Orchestra (5:30 pm to 7:00 pm)
  - Wind Band (5:30 pm to 7:00 pm)
  - Symphony Orchestra (6:00 pm to 8:30 pm)

Soundscapes will not have a program on snow days, half school days, teacher in-service days, or scheduled holidays (unless notified otherwise). In short, when the school is closed Soundscapes is closed (unless notified otherwise).

Program participants will:

- Receive general and instrumental music instruction
- Participate in self-esteem building and other types of group social skills sessions
- Be provided with the opportunity to excel in leadership positions

## **Arrival and Departure**

All students will need to fill out a health screening form before entering Gildersleeve Middle School. The health screening form may be accessed here: [www.soundscapes.org/screening](http://www.soundscapes.org/screening). If students have already filled out the form that day for entrance into a Daily Program Site, they will not need to fill it out again.

Only students participating in the Carver Daily Program may ride a bus to Gildersleeve Middle School on Tuesdays. The bus will depart Carver at 5:00 p.m.

All other students must arrive at the program 15 minutes before rehearsal to set up and warm up independently.

At the end of rehearsal, students must be picked up from Gildersleeve. Soundscapes will not provide bus transportation.

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

Soundscapes is committed to equal opportunity in employment and education. No person at Soundscapes will be denied the opportunity for employment, education, or subject to discrimination in any project, program, or activity because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, or disability.

## **Evaluation and Advancement**

Soundscapes uses a 9-dimension rubric to evaluate student progress. The following 9-dimensions progress from 1 (Beginner), 2 (Fundamental), 3 (Intermediate), 4 (Advanced), and 5 (Inspiring/Professional). There are four social dimensions and four musical dimensions, and one (Instrument Care) is a social and musical dimension. The dimensions are:

- Behavior (Social)
- Instrument Care (Social/Musical)
- Aural skills and applications (Musical)
- Music Reading skills and applications (Musical)
- Physical Technique (Musical)
- Sound Production Technique (Musical)
- Practice (Musical)
- Ensemble (Social)
- Relation to Audience (Social)

You will receive two progress reports throughout the year, one in December and one in July. We use this information to help us determine how best to serve the student's musical and social growth.

## **COVID Personal Protection Equipment (PPE):**

We ask that all students use face masks and bell covers for their instruments.

- Strings: Must wear masks the entire rehearsal
- Brass: Must wear masks with a slit for the mouth and bell covers, puppy pads will be provided for "water" and must be disposed of after rehearsal
- Woodwinds: Must wear masks with a slit for reed instruments and bell covers. Flutes may play with masks under their chin and without "bell covers" but must immediately place the masks on when not playing
- Percussion: Must wear masks the entire rehearsal

## **Experiences and Partnerships**

Soundscapes has formed partnerships with several of the largest arts organizations in Hampton Roads. Ferguson Center for the Arts provides free or low-cost tickets to Soundscapes to several of their performances throughout the year. The Virginia Symphony Orchestra sends some of its musicians to work with our students in the spring. The Virginia Arts Festival sends guest artists to play and teach our musicians throughout the year. Through its daily and youth orchestra programming, Soundscapes performs approximately 30 performances utilizing students from all programs.

## **Concerts**

The Peninsula Youth Orchestra will perform a minimum of three concerts per ensemble but may schedule more. In addition, we will follow local COVID restrictions and may utilize technology to create virtual concerts if need be. Soundscapes will announce concert dates separately.

## **Supervision**

All Soundscapes participants will be under the supervision of Soundscapes staff. Participants will be allowed to use the bathroom closest to each activity within the program site.

## **Behavior Expectations**

We strive to provide an atmosphere conducive to safety and appropriate behavior while still having fun. Proper conduct while in the program is the joint responsibility of musicians, parents, and program staff. The Site Manager is notified of all participant discipline matters and handles those that warrant more extra attention. Please review the following with your child before the program begins:

- We expect proper behavior from others and ourselves at all times.
- We treat others, as we would like to be treated, with kindness and courtesy.
- We communicate with words and do not hit each other.
- We use appropriate language and gestures.
- We only eat at the designated time. Therefore, candy, gum, or food are not allowed in rehearsal.
- We clean up after ourselves.
- We take turns.
- We respect and listen to the Soundscapes staff.
- We put things back where we found them.
- We do not abuse the rights or property of others.

- We keep each other's safety in mind at all times.

If the Behavior Specialist recommends temporary suspension, the musician's parent will be contacted via phone or note and will not be allowed to return to the program until a specified time.

## **Dismissal from the Program**

Soundscapes reserves the right to dismiss a student from the program due to attendance or behavioral issues such as hitting, fighting, possession of weapons, continuous disrespect.

## **Attendance**

Soundscapes expects all participants to understand that regular attendance is critical to achieving success within the program. If your student has an excused absence during school, it will carry over to the Soundscapes after-school program. It is the responsibility of the parent/student to notify us of the excused absence with a written note. Soundscapes reserves the right to dismiss any participant that has **three unexcused** absences from rehearsals. **No performance may be missed** unless the Site Manager has given prior consent. If a student misses a performance without Soundscapes consent, we reserve the right to dismiss the student from the program.

## **Information Dissemination**

Soundscapes will communicate with you via phone using a phone message service, directly via phone, email, text, traditional mail, or paper notes sent with students. Therefore, you must provide us with the most current contact information. If we do not have working phone numbers for you, we will not let the child continue to come to Peninsula Youth Orchestra. To retrieve the latest message, you may call (757) 693-6009 from the phone from which you would have received the message. Phone numbers that you may see on your Caller ID are:

- (757) 273-6178 – Main Soundscapes Office Number
- (757) 693-6009 – Message retrieval number
- (833) 882-8390 – Text messages

## **Concerns**

Any concerns or comments should be addressed to the Site Manager or Program Director.5:00 pm

## Contact Information

Ron Boucher, Site Manager  
Direct Line: (757) 529-8045  
Office: (757) 273-6178 x7  
Email: [rboucher@soundscapeshr.org](mailto:rboucher@soundscapeshr.org)

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