

Dear Students and Parents,

Our Spring Concert is family friendly. Standard concert manners are expected, but there are lots of children present.

Concert tips ~

Make it a special day.

Do not clap between movements of a piece. Clap only at the end of an entire work.

Older students - sit as close to the front as possible so you can learn more from the performers - watch their bow holds, left hand positions, eye contact, how they move.

Very young children - sit close to the exit. Have your children stay in the concert, only as long as they can sit quietly. If a child is forced to stay in a concert past their attention span, they may come to associate concerts as a negative.

All students are expected to sit with their parents at the concert.

Better to quietly take them out of the concert when they start to get the wiggles. When possible, exit a concert between pieces. It is disruptive to the rest of the audience if you leave during the performance.

However, if you have a terrible coughing fit, or your child begins to wail, please leave during the performance. It is a question of which will be more disruptive to the audience.

Once you leave the concert, ask your child what piece or performance they liked best. This is also a time to compliment your child on how well they behaved during the concert. This is not the time to criticize your child's behavior in the concert. If you left at the appropriate time for your child's attention span, you should only have compliments to give.

It does not matter how short a concert you attended. In time, your child's attention span will expand. Meanwhile, your child has been exposed to a higher level of playing, and was hopefully inspired and motivated.

Stop for a treat on the way home. Those little pleasures build a positive association with concerts and recitals. Your child will

look forward to the next opportunity to attend a concert. The effects expand beyond a lifetime.