**EXPERT**

**LOW BELL**

**CHALLENGE**

**MERIT**

 **Expert Low Bell Challenge Merit Description**

Expert Low Bell Musicians display Herculean strength! They lift the low bells (specifically C3, D3, E3, F3) with ease and finesse. Often the bells are continuously held for long durations with no measures to relax the grip or the muscles. Therefore, in order to qualify for the Expert Low Bell Challenge Merit, you must fulfill the following qualifications:

* Must truly love playing in the low bell zone (stands 21 and 22).
* Must be able to complete 50 consecutive push-ups or 10 consecutive pull-ups. Strive to do both, you Herculean Beasts!
* Must memorize the Family Tree Names for the four low bells: (C3, D3, E3, F3).
* Since the low bells are the metaphorical “anchors” of the group, you will also need to design and submit a drawing of an anchor with a handbell incorporated into the sketch.



**EXPERT**

**HIGH BELL**

**CHALLENGE**

**MERIT**

**Expert High Bell Challenge Merit Description**

Expert High Bell Musicians are the multi-tasker musicians that juggle as many bells, chimes, double bells, percussion sounds as possible (specifically found at music stands 1,2,3). Therefore, in order to qualify for the Expert High Bell Challenge Merit, you must fulfill the following qualifications:

* Must demonstrate ability to shelley-ring as well as four-in-hand ring (also known as crossing).
* Must have at least one song where you have at least six bells and / or chimes to cover.
* Must memorize the Family Tree Names for all the bells in the three small bell cases.
* Must be able to juggle at least three tennis balls or juggling beanbags for at least 25 consecutive tosses and catches.



**SCHOLAR**

**MUSICIAN**

**CHALLENGE**

**MERIT**

**Scholar Musician Challenge Merit**

A scholar musician is an individual who strives for academic excellence. These individuals take their school work, school responsibilities, and academic achievements very seriously. They set high standards for themselves and persevere when things get tough. In order to qualify for this challenge merit, you will need to meet the following requirements:

* Earn an “A” in each of your classes for at least one semester. At the end of first semester, you would need to bring in your report card for verification. At second semester, you would need to bring out an AERIES print-out sheet of each current subject grade prior to our end-of-year awards concert.
* You will also need to compose some type of essay, poem, or journal on the topic -- “Music Inspires”. This composition should be in typed form so that it can be displayed in our practice room for others to read.
* As a scholar, you will also need to complete and pass a written music exam on the basic treble and bass clef notes.



**SERVICE**

**MUSICIAN**

**CHALLENGE**

**MERIT**

**Service Musician Challenge Merit**

Handbell music is all about service to others … the group, the audience, the team … servant musicians see a need and act without being asked. This special merit challenge is for the individual who works tirelessly behind the scenes and steps up to do the work when others are leaving the room. In order to qualify for this challenge merit, you will need to meet the following requirements:

* Regularly takes on the responsibility to collect, organize, and pass out music between songs at rehearsals.
* Makes sure that mallets are placed correctly in stands, pencils are on stands, music table coverings are smoothed out for the other group … basically never leaves the rehearsal room until everything is put away properly and prepped for the next group.
* Will read or re-read the novel Stargirl, by Jerry Spinelli, to be inspired to complete at least ten random acts of kindness during the school year. Please keep a journal of the ten acts of kindness that you completed (include dates and descriptions please).
* A musical servant will also serve as a peer helper in another group … and / or show up to other group rehearsals (at least once a month) to be a replacement player for students who are absent. This will also improve your sight-reading skills!

**FAMILY**

**MUSICIANS**

**CHALLENGE**

**MERIT**

**Family Musicians Challenge Merit**

Harmonic Bronze is symbolic “family” we have many generations of members that are all united through music. We also have our immediate family that we live with on a daily basis. In order to qualify for the Family Musician Challenge Merit, you and your family will need to work together to completed the following challenges:

* You always hear me say that assembling the handbells on the table for each song is like a “jigsaw puzzle” – well, that is your first challenge – as a family team, you will need to complete a 1,000 piece (or larger) jigsaw puzzle – you have an entire year to complete this task. Take a photograph when completed please.
* Your second family challenge is to attend some type of musical concert together of any genre (not including our Harmonic Bronze performances). You’ll need photographs, ticket stubs, and / or programs for evidence as verification.
* Your third family challenge is to invite another handbell family over to your home for a meal … but the students have to prepare the meal and clean up the dishes. Photographs as proof please.
* Finally, your fourth family challenge is to create a family photograph incorporating our handbells; we will display photograph in our rehearsal room. Please arrange a time with Mr. Rowland for photoshoot. Great Christmas Card idea.

**MATH**

**MUSICIANS**

**CHALLENGE**

**MERIT**

**Math Musicians Challenge Merit**

Scientists have spent a lot of time linking the merits of mathematics to music. Many studies demonstrate that students who do participate in music have a greater aptitude with mathematics studies. In order to qualify for this merit challenge, you will need to fulfill the following criteria:

* When given a piece of music from Mr. Rowland, you will need to write down the numerical rhythmical counts for the entire song with a proficient degree of accuracy (1-2-3-4) and so forth.
* You will need to attempt to create your own musical composition for handbells (at least thirty measures in length). It doesn’t have to sound great, but you at least have to give music composition an attempt.
* When given a Level One or Level Two piece of music, you will attempt to divide the bells into parts and circle all the music for one of the groups. Definitely a mathematician’s skill set!



**MUSICIAN**

**ICON**

**CHALLENGE**

**MERIT**

**Musician Icon Challenge Merit**

This prestigious award is presented to the legendary iconic individual who is able to complete all six merit challenges in the course of one school year! Best wishes!

