

Frequently Asked Questions for Mr. Proszkow

Elementary Instrumental Music Programs in MCPS

Preguntas Frecuentes para el Sr. Proszkow en Español

FAQ 1. Which students can participate in instrumental music classes?

Elementary school students that are in the 4th and 5th grades can participate in instrumental music classes.

FAQ 2. What instruments are taught in Instrumental Music?

MCPS elementary schools offer the following instruments; flute, clarinet, alto saxophone (5th graders only with clarinet experience in 4th grade), trumpet / cornet, trombone, baritone / euphonium, percussion (snare drum and bells), violin, viola, and cello. Any instruments not listed are not offered. Please [contact Mr. Proszkow](#) if you have a question about instruments.

FAQ 3. How can you sign up for the classes?

Grade 4 and 5 students must sign up using an online instrumental music registration form found at your child's school and the school's website.

FAQ 4. Do I have to pay for the class?

Instrumental music is offered during the school day free of charge, but students must have their own instruments.

FAQ 5. Where can I rent or purchase the instrument?

When the online registration form is completed by the parent and submitted, Mr. Proszkow will give the student a form telling the parent which instrument is best suited for their child, and which accessories to purchase with the instrument. A list of music stores in the area will be on the back of the form. If you cannot afford to rent an instrument, please [contact Mr. Proszkow](#) for more information.

FAQ 6. How does Mr. Proszkow know what the best instrument(s) would be for my child?

Mr. Proszkow has completed an undergraduate and master's degree in music education. However, parental input is always used!

FAQ 7. How do I know what time my child will have Instrumental music classes?

Mr. Proszkow will give you and your child a schedule of the class times for when they have lessons at your child's school. The classroom teacher will have the list posted in their rooms and the schedule is accessible for students to view in MyMCPS classroom.

FAQ 8. What classes will my child be pulled from to take instrumental music class?

Maryland state guidelines do not allow your child to be pulled from lunch or recess for classes. MCPS guidelines do not allow your child to be pulled from gym, art, and general music classes as these classes are only taught once per week. Students will be pulled from science, social studies, math, and language arts classes.

FAQ 9. When will Instrumental Music classes start?

All students will begin lessons the first week of October to review expectations for the course. All returning level 2 students will be expected to have their instruments present at the first lesson. All beginning / level 1 students will begin playing the following week.

FAQ 10. How many classes does Mr. Proszkow teach for the year?

There are 22 classes during the school year.

FAQ 11. How many classes do students have each week? How long are the classes?

MCPS instrumental music students' have class ONE day each week. MCPS allows flexibility of the IM teacher to teach each class a minimum of 30 minutes to a maximum of 50 minutes depending on class needs.

FAQ 12. Is there a limit on how many students are in each class?

Yes, the limit of students per class is 17 per single-instrument class. However, for ensemble classes (Advanced Band /Advanced Orchestra) the classes can have multiple instruments.

FAQ 13. We changed our minds and no longer want to take instrumental music, what do we do?

Write an email [to Mr. Proszkow](mailto:to_Mr._Proszkow), with your child's full name and school, letting him know that you have had a change of mind. No questions asked.

FAQ 14. Are there grades and a curriculum for Instrumental Music classes?

Yes, your child will receive a grade for instrumental music, if they register for the class. There is an IM curriculum for instrumental music with quarterly assessments.

FAQ 15. What is the grading policy?

A : Full understanding, B : General understanding, C : Some understanding, and D : Minimal understanding.

FAQ 16. Are there tests / assessments in instrumental music?

Yes, Some assessments are paper pencil, some are online on Chromebooks, and others are performance-based (they will be playing their instrument).

FAQ 17. Will my child have to participate in a concert?

Yes, IM curriculum requires your child to participate in the spring concert for level 1 / beginning students. Level 2 / advanced students will be required to participate in the winter and spring concerts.

FAQ 18. When are the concerts for my child's school?

Mr. Proszkow will send notices home before the concerts so that you can save the date on your calendar. Your child's school website will have the concerts listed under instrumental music as well.

FAQ 19. Can my child sing in the Chorus and play in the Band or Orchestra?

Yes! We absolutely welcome students to participate in both.

If you had a question that was not addressed please feel free to stop by your child's school and speak with Mr. Proszkow or send an email. Nicholas_J_Proszkow@mcpsmd.org. *Make sure when sending an email to put your child's first and last name and the school. This will help me answer specific questions for each school.*