

Mrs. Ford's Instrumental Music Handbook

MeLinda L. Ford, Instrumental Music Director, MeLinda_L_Ford@mcpsmd.org

Instrumental Rental:

- I recommend renting, NOT PURCHASING, an instrument for the first year. Unless your child is playing an instrument that is already owned or used by a family member.

Class/Lesson Attendance Requirement

- Class/Lesson times will be given to students and posted in Class and Instrumental Music rooms and in every 4th/5th grade Teacher's classroom. I will not be able to regularly retrieve students from their teacher's classrooms.)

Attendance & Instrument Policy

- Instrumental classes can last 30 to 40 minutes (1) time weekly for a total of 9 weeks or 1 marking period.
- Students are allowed to forget their instrument (1) time without penalty. If students forget their instruments more than 2 times they will be sent back to their classroom teacher and will be marked in the grade book for not having the necessary materials to participate in that class. If a student is absent from class 3 times in a marking period but in the school building
- Parents will be notified via a form from Mrs. Ford that the child has not attended class with necessary materials, the appropriate grade will be noted in Mrs. Ford's grade book.
- Student's that remain in the Classroom teacher's room will be marked absent from the Instrumental music class for that day. *If a student is absent from class 3 times in a marking period but in the school building for those days they will be removed from Instrumental Music classes.*
- Student's that are absent from school on the day of their Instrumental Music class, taking Standardized Tests, or attending school field trips are excused from Instrumental music classes.
- **If a parent/guardian wishes for their child to discontinue Instrumental music classes. A note must be given or emailed to the Instrumental music teacher.**

Grading Policy: A (Full Understanding), B (General Understanding), C (Some Understanding), D (Minimal Understanding)

Classroom Procedure: (applies each grading period)

- Arrive on time to class, with an instrument, music/music book and a pencil.
- Maintain appropriate rehearsal decorum during the lesson.
- **Presents evidence of completing home practice assignments, (i.e., turning in practice charts).** (MCPS Form 334-8)
 - Each student will keep track of weekly Instrumental music assignments. The practice charts will be provided. Practice charts are checked by the Instrumental music teacher every week.
 - It is expected that students start practicing at least 10 minutes a day and work up to 20-30 minutes by the end of the first three months of classes. This will assist them for the next week's class/lesson.
 - **The total practice time should be accompanied by a caregivers' signature.** Practice charts should be a minimum of 60 minutes a week.

Individual Technique: (applies each grading period)

- Demonstrates measurable gains in these technical areas at his/her appropriate level of development: posture, hand position, tone production, pitch control, knowledge of fingerings, range, mouthpiece/lip strength, and hand coordination or bow/stick control (String/Percussion only).
- Demonstrate skills in the reading of pitch and rhythmic notation on prepared as well as simple sight-reading material at a level commensurate with the students' development.

Concert Performance: (applies to the marking period for concerts)

- **Participates in REQUIRED performance.**
 - **Concerts are mandatory and will affect grading. Level 2 students have 2 performances a year, Winter Concert and Spring Concert. Level 1 students only have 1 required performance a year, the Spring Concert.**
 - Concerts are required for all students who have completed the MCPS Instrumental Music Elementary Curriculum for either Levels 1 and 2. A notice will be sent home. If a student can not attend the concert a written assessment will be given in place of the concert.
- On time and appropriately dressed for performance.
- Attire for females-Black pants/knee length skirt, white shirt, black socks or neutral shoes, black shoes (no flip flops or high heels). Attire for males-Black pants, white button down shirt, tie (any color), black shoes and socks. Maintain appropriate behavior while listening to others perform.
- Demonstrate the ability to make an aesthetic judgment regarding his/her quality of performance and that of theirs.