

## **Frequently Asked Questions for Mrs. MeLinda Ford** **Elementary Instrumental Music Programs in MCPS**

### **FAQ. Which students can participate in Instrumental Music Classes?**

Elementary school student's that are in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade can participate in Instrumental Music classes.

### **FAQ. What instruments are taught in Instrumental Music?**

MCPS elementary schools offer the following instruments; Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet/Cornet, Trombone, Baritone T.C/B.C, Percussion, Violin, Viola and Cello.

### **FAQ. How does the Instrumental Music teacher know what the best instruments would be for my child?**

The Instrumental Music teacher for your child's school is a licensed teacher from the State of Maryland Education Department. They have completed at least an undergraduate degree in music education as well as a graduate degree in Music Education from an accredited school.

### **FAQ. How can you sign up for the classes?**

Grade 4 and 5 students must sign up using a Instrumental Music Registration form found at your child's school and the school's website.

### **FAQ. 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. There are a few instruments that are for student loan usage, however the students that received them last year will get those instruments again, so supplies for new students will be limited.

### **FAQ. Where can I rent or purchase the instrument?**

When the IM Registration form is completed by the parent and given to the IM teacher. The IM teacher will give the students a form telling the parent which instrument is best suited for their child, which accessories to purchase with the instrument. A list of music stores in the area will be on the back of the form.

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

The IM teacher will give your child a schedule of the class times for when the teacher is at your child's school. The classroom teacher will have the list posted in their rooms.

### **FAQ. What classes will my child be pulled from to take an Instrumental Music class?**

Maryland State guidelines do not allow your child to be pulled from Lunch or Recess for IM classes. MCPS Guidelines do not allow your child to be pulled from Gym, Art, and General Music classes. These classes are only taught 1 time weekly. Students will be pulled from Science, Social Studies, Math and Language Arts classes.

Each class is 30 minutes long for beginners/L1 first year players and 40 minutes long for advanced students returning to play the same instrument that was played last year.

Instrumental Music students have 22 classes the entire year, for beginners that is a total of 660 minutes and for the advanced students that is 880 for the entire year.

Classes that occur 5 times a week such as Math or ELA/Reading occur 90 minutes a day five times a week for a total of 450 minutes each week or 4050 minutes each marking period or 16,200 minutes a year.

**FAQ. When will Instrumental Music classes start?**

Returning level 2 student's classes will start the 2nd week in October. Beginners/level 1 student's classes will start the 3rd week in October

**FAQ. How many classes are offered in Instrumental Music for the year?**

There are 22 classes in a normal calendar year.

**FAQ. We changed our mind and no longer want to take Instrumental Music, what do we do?** Write a note or send an email to Mrs. Ford, with your child's full name and school, letting her know that you have had a change of mind. No questions asked.

**FAQ. 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. What is the grading policy?**

A-Full Understanding, B-General Understanding, C-Some Understanding and D-Minimal Understanding.

**FAQ. Are there tests/assessments in Instrumental Music?**

Yes, Some are paper pencil and others are performance based (they will be playing their instrument. )

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

Yes, I.M. 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 Concert.

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

Mrs. Ford 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.

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

Yes, we 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 or email Mrs. Ford.

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