



**The Silver Spring
International
Middle School**

**Instrumental
Music Department
Handbook**

Mr. Timothy Dawson, Director
Timothy_M_Dawson@mcpsmd.org
301-650-6544

Welcome to the Silver Spring International Middle School Instrumental Music Program!

This handbook has been prepared to provide you and your parents with information about your band/orchestra program. It includes the grading policy, musical objectives, rehearsal concert procedures, supply lists and the comprehensive calendar of music events at SSI and MCPS for the 2011-2012 school year.

Ensembles:

Advanced Band:

For students with at least one year of experience in the Middle School Band Program. This group plays more difficult literature setting the expectations for performers very high. Based on the instrumental needs of the ensemble, Mr. Dawson will recommend students to join this class.

Intermediate Band:

For Students with previous musical experience. Students who have played in elementary school join other experienced SSI musicians in this ensemble. The group focuses on further development of musical skills and plays moderately difficult literature.

Beginning (Concert) Band:

For Students with no previous instrumental music experience. This beginning level group is open to any student, 6th – 8th grade, who wishes to learn a woodwind or brass instrument. Beginning percussion will be offered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the current year ensemble needs.

Advanced Orchestra:

For Students with at least one year experience in the Middle School Orchestra Program *or* with 2 or more years of private instruction. This group plays more difficult music in a variety of styles. Skills acquired in previous classes (or through private instruction) are a necessity for this literature played in this ensemble. As in Advanced Band, based on the instrumental needs of the ensemble, Mr. Dawson will recommend students to join this class.

Intermediate Orchestra:

For Students with previous musical experience. Students who have played in elementary school join other experienced SSI Orchestra members in this ensemble. The group focuses on building proper techniques and skills on their instrument. This group plays moderately easy literature.

Beginning Strings:

For Students with no previous string instrument experience. This beginning level group is open to any 6th – 8th grade student who wishes to learn how to play a string instrument.

Jazz Ensemble:

The Jazz Ensemble is the Silver Spring International Middle School's premier performing ensemble. Auditions for new students are held in late May / early June or early September. Students with prior experience in the jazz ensemble *may* be invited to return without having to re-audition. The regular rehearsal schedule is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 7:00 until 7:35. **Students should be seated and ready to play by 7:10 am.**

The instrumentation and format of the ensemble is that of the generally recognized jazz "Big Band:" alto, tenor, & baritone saxophones, trumpets, low brass (trombones and baritones), piano, bass, guitar and percussion. Due to the rigors of the ensemble, a year of Middle School Music experience is generally required for audition, although exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OBJECTIVES

The student should be able to:

1. Follow classroom rehearsal procedures and respect the property of others.
2. Meet individual responsibilities for care and preventive maintenance of a musical instrument.
3. Follow concert procedures and meet performance obligations on the school music calendar.
4. Demonstrate mastery of musical skills and concepts outlined in the National Standards for Music Education.
5. Read and perform appropriate MENC (Music Educator's National Conference) grade level music.
6. Sight-read appropriate MENC grade level music.

(From MCPS Program of Studies, Instrumental Music, Grades 6-8, p.2)

CLASSROOM REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

The Student will:

- Arrive to class on time, listen, and be respectful of others.
 - Be prepared for class with a **working** instrument, music, pencil, and necessary supplies (reeds, valve oil, rosin, etc...)
 - Never handle an instrument that does not belong to them.
 - Learn how to keep their instrument in good working condition and protect it from damage.
 - Bring a note to the director from a parent/guardian if he/she cannot play because of illness or dental work. An alternate assignment will be given to students unable to play.
 - Raise his/her hand to be recognized to ask a question and not talk when others are talking or playing.
 - NOT chew gum or food during class or performances. Drinks are not permitted in the band room except for **bottled water ONLY**. ***Trips to the water fountain during rehearsals may be limited!***
 - Be supportive of classmates, never criticizing another individual's performance.
 - **PLEASE NOTE: Students' Daily Grade will be lowered if they do not follow Classroom Rehearsal Procedures.**
-

CONCERT PROCEDURES

1. Attendance and Grading: Performing in public concerts is a vital part of the music course objectives. Students not present for a performance will not have an opportunity to make up the grade since the due date and deadline are the same.

2. Concert Dress is *required*. Students should *look* as professional as they *sound*!

- **White dress shirt or blouse with sleeves (no t-shirts)**
- **Black Tie (gentlemen)**
- **Black dress pants NO JEANS! Dark belt (gentlemen)**
- **Black slacks or long black skirts (plain) NO SHORT SKIRTS! (ladies)**
- **Black socks or stockings**
- **Black dress shoes (no sneakers!)**

3. Arrival times

Students should arrive at Northwood High School **NO LATER THAN 6:15.**

Concert Dates for School Year 2011/2012

The 2011 Winter Concert:

Chorus and String Orchestras – Wednesday, December 14th

Jazz Ensemble and Bands – Wednesday, December 21st

The 2012 Spring Concert:

Chorus and String Orchestras – Dates TBA

Jazz Ensemble and Bands – Dates TBA

2011 Fall “Cluster Concert” for Orchestra at Northwood HS:

Wednesday, October 19th

***PLEASE NOTE: Additional performances will be added throughout the school year for various ensembles**

Grading Policy

Students in instrumental music will learn many aspects of music as outlined in the Essential Learner Outcomes for Maryland and the voluntary state music curriculum. These detailed objectives are based on the nine National Standards for Music Education.

National Standards for Music Education:

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Formative and Summative Assessment

Summative grades (25% of total grade) reflect academic performance only. Students will receive multiple opportunities to demonstrate achievement through a variety of assessments to include:

Written Quizzes & Tests	Concerts	Playing Assessments
-------------------------	----------	---------------------

Formative assignments (70% of total grade) are designed to help students work toward the musical objectives and indicators. A “Daily Objective” grade will be assessed for each class/rehearsal. Each student has the opportunity to earn a maximum of 10 points per class. No penalty will be assessed for excused absences. Ensemble participation and assignment completion are directly related to successful learning in music.

Daily Objective	Participation in class with an instrument in working condition, music, pencil, paper. Contributes ideas, asks questions, uses feedback or engages in tasks to clarify, refine, or extend learning without interfering with the learning of others. <i>(See Proper Rehearsal Etiquette)</i>	
Playing Tests		Reading/Listening & Writing Assignments (Home and In-class)

Playing retests: students must show evidence of 30-45 minutes of home practice for a retest for a better grade within the deadline.

Homework assignments are worth 5% of total grade

Grading

A	90-100	Student demonstrates full and complete understanding of indicators
B	80-89	Student demonstrates good understanding of indicators
C	70-79	Student demonstrates basic understanding of indicators
D	60-69	Student demonstrates some understanding of indicators
E	Below 60	Student demonstrates little or no understanding of indicators

MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT (Should be obtained by Monday, September 12th)

- **Student planner! Everyday!**
- **Pencils with erasers and SSI Ensemble Folder**
Tuner – required for Advanced Orchestra
 - (recommended for all other students)
- **Instrument and Music Folder** (with method books)
- **Metronome** – HIGHLY recommended for practice at home!

Instruments	Equipment Needed
Flute	Cleaning rod and cloth (handkerchief, not fraying cotton)
Oboe	Cleaning Swab, cork grease, 3 medium soft reeds
Bb Clarinet	Cleaning Swab, cork grease, 4 reeds* (Beg & Int - Mitchell Lurie 2,2.5; Advanced - Vandoren 2.5, 3)
Alto/Bass Clarinet	Cleaning Swab, cork grease, 4 reeds* (see above)
Alto/Tenor/Bari Sax	Neck Strap, cork grease, cleaning swab, 4 reeds* (Beginning & Intermediate - 2; Advanced – 2, 2.5, 3)
Bassoon	3 medium soft reeds, cork grease, cleaning swab
Trumpet	Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, snake
French horn	Rotary valve oil, tuning slide grease
Trombone	Slide cream, spray water bottle
Baritone/Tuba	Valve oil, tuning slide grease
Percussion	Concert Band - snare sticks (Vic Firth SD1 or 5A models, xylophone/bell mallets, stick bag. Intermediate/Advanced Band - snare sticks (Vic Firth SD1 or 5A models), xylophone/bell mallets, timpani mallets (medium), stick bag.
Violin/Viola	Rosin, shoulder rest , cleaning cloth (not chemically treated) 1 spare set of strings (Dominant or equivalent)
Cello/Bass	Rosin, Rock Stop or Strap for cello

^ Silver Spring International has a limited number of instruments which are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis **and** the instrumental needs of the program.

* The SSIMS school store now carries a limited supply of clarinet and saxophone reeds.

Each student in the Intermediate or Advanced ensembles will receive a leather-bound SSI Instrumental Ensemble folder. These folders are to be treated as text books. Damage that occurs to the folder throughout the course of the year (INCLUDING THE LOSS OF BRASS CORNERS) will result in a replacement fee of \$20 per folder. There is an understanding that through use, the folders will not remain “brand new.” The students are asked to take extra care of the folders to extend the folder’s useful life.

Method Books:

Advanced Band	Advanced Orchestra
Standards of Excellence Book 2	Essential Elements 2000 For Strings Book 1
Intermediate Band	Intermediate Orchestra
Standards of Excellence Book 1	Essential Elements 2000 For Strings Book 1
Concert Band (Beginning Band)	Beginning Strings
Accent on Achievement – Book 1	Essential Elements 2000 For Strings Book 1
Jazz Ensemble	
No Method Book	

Spring Trip

Each spring, the Silver Spring International MS Music Department participates in a “Music in the Parks” festival, competing against other Middle Schools from the Northeastern United States. To ensure that the ensembles’ diligent efforts are fully realized, students must demonstrate their commitment to excellence in the classroom and through performance by maintaining an 80% average or above through 3 quarters in order to compete in the festival.

The Hershey Park trip will take place on Saturday, May 19th, 2011

Practicing

Students are expected to practice their instruments at home in order to improve their musicianship and learn their assigned parts. Quarterly practice logs will be maintained by each student. The practice logs will be **checked randomly 4 times each quarter for a homework grade.** The practice logs must be signed each week by a parent or legal guardian to get credit. Students should keep their practice records in their music folders.

Students are responsible for learning their parts and improving their musicianship. Regular playing tests will be assigned. Occasionally, these playing tests will be digitally recorded for purposes of analysis and grading. In order to be re-assessed on a playing test, students **MUST** show evidence of practice with their practice logs. The reassessment grade will **replace** the original grade. *No re-tests will be given without proof of practice. This is a school-wide policy.*

Weekly practice goals:

Advanced Band / Orchestra: 150 minutes

Intermediate Band / Orchestra: 120 minutes

Beginning Band / Orchestra: 90 minutes

All-County and All-State Honors Band/Orchestra

These performing ensembles present an opportunity for students to further develop their musical talents. They are optional but highly encouraged. These are “blind” auditions (judges sit behind a screen) to ensure fairness. See Mr. Dawson for all audition information.

- See attached schedule on page 8 for dates and times.

MCPS Instrumental Music Calendar 2011-2012

August 24, 2011

2011	Event	Location	Time	Application Due
Oct 3, Mon., 2011	MCPS Honors Jazz Auditions	Frost MS	4:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Sept. 21, 2011
Oct. 21, Fri., 2011	MMEA Fall Conference	Bel Air High School, Harford County	8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	TBA
Nov. 8, Tues., 2011	MCPS Jr. Honors Band & Orch. Auditions	Magruder High School	6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Oct. 11, 2011
Nov. 12, Sat., 2011	Jr. All-State Auditions	Edegewood HS, Harford Co.	TBA	To MMEA by Sept. 30
Nov. 15, Tues., 2011	MCPS Sr. Honors Band & Orch. Auditions	Magruder High School	6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Oct. 18, 2011
Nov. 19, Sat., 2011	Sr. All-State Auditions	Edegewood HS, Harford Co.	TBA	To MMEA by Oct. 7
Dec. 10, Sat., 2011	MCPS Big Band Jazz Festival	Sherwood HS	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.	Nov. 11, 2011
2012				
Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2012	All-County Honors Band and Orchestra Rehearsals	Jr. Band-Cabin John MS Jr. Orch. Churchill HS Sr. Band – Magruder HS Sr. Orch. Richard Montgomery HS 6 th grade groups -TBA	6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	Student Contracts and fees due Dec. 9, 2011 for Jr. & Sr. members. Jan. 3, 2012 for 6 th gr. members
Feb. 2, Thurs., 2012	Sr. Honors Band & Orchestra Dress Rehearsals	BCC HS	7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	NA
Feb. 3, Fri., 2012	Jr. & Sr. Honors Bands and Orchestras Dress Rehearsals and Dinner	BCC HS	4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	NA
Feb. 4, Sat., 2012	Honors Bands & Orchestras Gala Concert	BCC HS	6:30 p.m.	NA
Feb. 7, Tues., 2012	6 th Gr. Honors Bands & Orchestra Gala Concerts	North – TBA, Central - TBA South – TBA	7:30 p.m.	NA
Feb. 23-26, 2012	All-State Jr., Sr. Band, Sr. Orchestra	TBA	TBA	NA
March 2, Fri., 2012	District II Ensemble Festival	Wootton HS	4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Feb. 3, 2012
March 3, Sat., 2012	District II Solo Festival	Wootton HS	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Feb. 3, 2012
March 9-11, 2012	All-State Jr. Orchestra	See MMEA Handbook	TBA	NA
March 13, 2012 Tues.	District II HS Orchestra Fest.	Walter Johnson HS	8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Feb. 22, 2012
March 20, 2012 Tues.	District II HS Band Fest.	Richard Montgomery HS (Tentative)	8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Feb. 22, 2012
March 21, 2012, Wed.	District II HS Band Fest.	Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS	8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Feb. 22, 2012
March 29-30, 2012	MD All-State Jazz Band and Jazz Conference	See MMEA Handbook	TBA	See MMEA Handbook
April 17, Tues., 2012	District II MS Orchestra Festivals (Dual Sites)	Damascus HS (Tentative) TBA	8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	March 9, 2012
April 19, Thur., 2012	District II MS Band Festivals (Dual Sites)	Springbrook HS (Tentative) TBA	8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.	March 9, 2012
April 24, Tues., 2012	MCPS Second Bands Festival	Clarksburg HS (Tentative)	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	March 15, 2012
April 30-May 4 2012	MBDA State HS Band & MODA State HS Orchestra Festivals	TBA	TBA	To MMEA by March 30, 2012
May 12, Sat., 2012	MODA State Solo & Ensemble Festival	TBA	TBA	To MMEA by March 30, 2012
May 14-18, 2012	MBDA State MS Band Festival & MODA State MS Orchestra Festival	TBA	TBA	To MMEA by April 20, 2011
May 19, Sat., 2012	MBDA State Solo & Ensemble Festival	TBA	TBA	To MMEA by April 4, 2012

I have **read and fully understand** my responsibilities to the Music Department of the Silver Spring International Middle School:

Student _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Parent E-mail _____
(Music Dept. information **only** - PLEASE print clearly.)

Please return this information page to Mr. Dawson by **Friday September 9th**.

This handbook can be downloaded at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/ssims/departments/music>

It is highly recommended that you keep this handbook for reference throughout the year!