

# Instrumental Music Policy

MeLinda L. Ford, Instrumental Music Director

[MeLinda\\_L\\_Ford@mcpsmd.org](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 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 50 minutes (1) time weekly for a total of 9 weeks or 1 marking period.
- Students are allowed to forget their instrument (1) time a without penalty. If forgotten 2 or more, students they will be sent to back to their classroom teacher. It will be marked in the grade book for not having the necessary materials to participate in that class.
- 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. Fords' grade book.
- Student's that remain in the Classroom teacher's room will be marked absent from the Instrumental music class for that day. 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 discontinues 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 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 check 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 parents' 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 effect 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.
  - Concert 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.
- On time and appropriately dressed for performance.
  - Attire for females-Black pants/knee length skirt, white shirt, black socks or neutral hoes, black shoes (no flip flops or high heels). Attire for males-Black pants, white bottom 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.