

## **Frequently Asked Questions for Mrs. MeLinda Ford**

### Elementary Instrumental Music Programs in MCPS

*(I.M-Instrumental Music)*

#### **FAQ 1. 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 2. 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 (Strathmore & Highland View), Violin, Viola and Cello.

#### **FAQ 3. 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 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 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 6. 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 an undergraduate degree in music education as well as a graduate degree in Music Education from an accredited school.

#### **FAQ 7. 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 8. 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 does not allow your child to be pulled from Gym, Art, and General Music classes. Due to these classes are only taught 1 time weekly. Students will be pulled from Science, Social Studies, Math and Language Arts classes.

#### **FAQ 9. When will Instrumental Music classes start?**

Returning level 2 student's classes will start the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October. Beginners/level 1 student's classes will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October

#### **FAQ 10. How many classes are offer in Instrumental Music for the year?**

There are 22 classes.

#### **FAQ 11. How many classes with students have each week? How long are the classes?**

MCPS Instrumental Music students' have class **ONE** day each week. MCPS allows the IM teacher to teach each classes a minimum of 30 minutes to a maximum of 50 minutes for each class.

**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 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 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 test/assessments in Instrumental Music?**

Yes, Some assessments are paper pencil 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 Concert.

**FAQ 18. 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 19. 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 and speak with Mrs. Ford or send an email.

[MeLinda L Ford@MCPSMD.ORG](mailto:MeLinda L Ford@MCPSMD.ORG)

*Make sure when sending an email put your child's first and last name and the school. This will help me answer specific question for each school.*