



# The Silver Spring International Middle School

## Music Department Handbook

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# The Silver Spring International Middle School Music Department

## **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. Mr. Dawson will recommend students to join this class based on experience (or an audition) and the instrumental needs of the ensemble.

## **Intermediate Band:**

For students with previous musical experience. Students who have played in elementary school join other musicians with similar experience in this ensemble. The group focuses on further development of musical skills and plays music with an “easy to moderate” difficulty rating.

## **Beginning Guitar Class:**

For students with little or no previous instrumental music experience. This beginning level group is open to any student, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, who wishes to learn to play guitar. Guitars will provided for class only. *This is a NON-PERFORMING CLASS.*

## **Advanced Guitar Class:**

For Students with one year of class guitar experience or 6 months (minimum) of lessons with a private teacher. This class is open to any 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who wishes to expand on their basic knowledge of the guitar. This class will emphasize advanced note reading, chords, scales and songs – both individual and in groups. This is a *PERFORMING CLASS.*

## **String 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 ensemble is a combined group consisting of the **Intermediate and Advanced** Orchestras. Students will play more difficult music in a variety of styles. Skills acquired in previous classes (or through private instruction) are a necessity for the literature played in this ensemble. Mr. Dawson will recommend students to join this class.

## **Jazz Ensemble:**

The Jazz Ensemble is the Silver Spring International Middle School’s premier performing ensemble. Auditions for new students are held in late September. Students with prior experience in the jazz ensemble *may* be invited to return without having to re-audition. The regular rehearsals take place in the morning from 7:15 until 7:55. The rehearsal day(s) will be determined after the first rehearsal on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade, General, and Advanced Chorus:**

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade chorus is open to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and the general chorus is open to all students at The Silver Spring International Middle School. These groups focus on the basics of building proper choral techniques and skills through performance. The Advanced Chorus is for select students at The Silver Spring International Middle School. The group focuses on using advanced choral techniques and skills through performance of primarily three part music. Since chorus is a performance based activity, a major part of the student’s grade is based on the evening and school day performances, as well as classroom participation.

## CHORAL MUSIC OBJECTIVES

The student should be able to:

- Actively engage in improving their performance level according to specific objectives each class period.
- Assess their music making as it affects their section and the ensemble.
- Make modifications to the performance of music as directed. (style, tempo, diction,...etc.)
- Read and perform appropriate MENC grade level music.
- Follow concert procedures and meet performance obligations on the school music calendar.
- Demonstrate mastery of musical skills and concepts outlined in the National Standards for Music Education.
- Work to improve individual technique including posture, breathing, and tone production.
- Progress in the areas of matching pitch, singing with a free and healthy tone, intonation, balance, diction, tall and round vowel shaping, style, and dynamics.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OBJECTIVES

The student should be able to:

- Follow classroom rehearsal procedures and respect the property of others.
- Meet individual responsibilities for care and preventive maintenance of a musical instrument.
- Follow concert procedures and meet performance obligations on the school music calendar.
- Demonstrate mastery of musical skills and concepts outlined in the National Standards for Music Education.
- Read and perform appropriate MENC (Music Educator's National Conference) grade level music.
- Sight-read appropriate MENC grade level music.  
(From MCPS Program of Studies, Instrumental Music, Grades 6-8, p.2)

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## CLASSROOM REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

The student will:

- Arrive to class on time, listen, and be respectful of others.
- Positively encourage others in the ensemble.
- Be prepared for class with a **working** instrument (instrumental music only) music, pencil, and necessary supplies (reeds, valve oil, rosin, etc.)
- Bring a note to the director from a parent/guardian if he/she cannot sing or play because of illness or dental work. An alternate assignment will be given to students unable to rehearse.
- 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 or chorus room except for ***bottled water only***. ***Trips to the water fountain during rehearsals may be limited.***
- Never handle an instrument that does not belong to them.
- Learn how to keep their voice or instrument in good working condition and protect it from damage.

# 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! Please NOTE:** SSIMS has a limited supply of boys and girls concert dress attire that may be borrowed on a 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served basis. Borrowed clothes must be cleaned before they are returned to school. See Mr. Dawson or Mr. Nassar for details.

- **White dress shirt or blouse with sleeves (no t-shirts)**
- **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!*)**
- **Black sport coat (Jazz Ensemble)**

### 3. Arrival times

Concerts being at 7:00 PM. Students should arrive at Blair High School **NO LATER THAN 6:15.**

**\*PLEASE NOTE: There are numerous performance obligations throughout the 2018-2019 school year. Because the Silver Spring International Middle School does NOT have a usable auditorium, we have to hold performances at the Montgomery Blair High School.**

This year's (tentative) dates

#### **Winter Concerts:**

Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – Orchestra and Chorus  
Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> – Jazz and Concert Bands

#### **Spring Concerts:**

Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Orchestra and Chorus  
Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> – Jazz and Concert Bands

### **All-County and All-State Honors Band/Orchestra/Chorus**

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

#### **Audition dates:**

- Monday, Oct. 15, 2018 MCPS Honors Jazz Auditions
- Thursday, November 8, 2018 MCPS Jr. Honors Band/Orchestra Auditions
- Saturday, November 10, 2018 MD Jr. All-State Band/Orchestra Auditions
- Saturday, December 8, 2018 MCPS Big Band Jazz Festival (required for all SSIMS Jazz Ensemble members)
- Friday, February 22, 2019 District II Ensemble Festival
- Saturday, February 23, 2019 District II Solo Festival
- Thursday, March 21, 2019 District II MS Orchestra Festival (required performance for Orchestra members)
- Thursday, April 11, 2019 District II MS Band Festival (required performance for Adv. Band members)
- Saturday, May 11, 2019 MD State Orchestra Solo & Ensemble Festival
- Saturday, May 18, 2019 MD State Band Solo & Ensemble Festival

## **GRADING POLICY**

Students in choral and 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.

### **Grading Policy 2018-2019**

There will no longer be Standard-based grading at SSIMS. This year, we will begin implementing new Gradebook Categories. We will use 90% All Tasks and Assignments, 10% HW for Practice and Preparation.

### **Spring Trip**

Due to the increase cost and burden placed on chaperones, no decision has been made about a Spring Trip this year but we are trying to work this out.

### **This year's festival:**

### **To Be Determined**

#### **Coffee House Dates for 2018 - 2019**

Fall: Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> (auditions – 10/23 and 10/25)

Spring: Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> (auditions – 04/30 and 05/02)

## INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- Student planner! Everyday!
- Pencils with erasers and SSI Ensemble Folder
- **Tuner and Shoulder Rest – required for Orchestra students**

<i>Instruments</i>	<i>Equipment Needed</i>
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* (Intermediate - 2, 2.5, 3; Advanced - 2.5, 3, 3.5)
Alto/Bass Clarinet	Cleaning Swab, cork grease, 4 reeds* (see above)
Alto/Tenor/Bari Sax	Neck Strap, cork grease, cleaning swab, 4 reeds* (Intermediate – 2, 2.5; Advanced – 2.5, 3, 3.5)
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. Rotor oil for instruments with an F trigger
Baritone/Tuba	Valve oil, tuning slide grease
Percussion	Intermediate/Advanced Band - snare sticks for home practice
Violin/Viola	Rosin, <b>shoulder rest</b> , cleaning cloth (not chemically treated) 1 spare set of strings (Dominant or equivalent)
Cello/Bass	Rosin, Rock Stop or Strap for cello

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

### Practicing

Students are expected to practice their instruments at home in order to improve their musicianship and learn their assigned parts.

What I say:

**“There will be no practice records this year.”**

What students hear:

**“Mr. Dawson says we don’t have to practice!”**

### REVIEW THE POLICY!

Students are responsible for learning their parts and improving their musicianship. Regular playing tests will be assigned. These playing tests will be digitally recorded for purposes of analysis and grading and uploaded to Google Classroom. The re-assessment grade will **replace** the original grade.

This handbook can be downloaded at:

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