

Earle B. Wood Middle School

Instrumental Music Handbook for Students and Parents



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Instrumental Music Director
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August 27, 2007

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Earle B. Wood Middle School Instrumental Music Department. This handbook is a means to inform the student and parents of the policies of the instrumental music department. It covers objectives, grading policy, rehearsal procedures, practice cards, after school rehearsals and concerts. I am requesting that parents sit with their students, carefully read this handbook, and then fill out and return the last page by September 5, 2007.

I hope this will answer any questions you may have about the music program. I can be reached at Wood Middle School during the day at 301-460-2150 if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

Mark Mitchell
Instrumental Music Director

Method Books for the 2007-2008 School Year

Students who are enrolled in the instrumental music program will be using the following method books during the school year. The method books can be purchased at the local music stores. The names of the method books are listed below for each grade level:

6 th Grade Band	<u>Accent on Achievement</u>	Book 1 and 2
7 th / 8 th Grade Band	<u>Accent on Achievement</u>	Book 2 and 3
6 th Grade Orchestra	<u>Strictly Strings</u>	Book 1 and 2
7 th / 8 th Grade Orchestra	<u>Strictly Strings</u>	Book 2 and 3

IMPORTANT DATES

Earle B. Wood Middle School Instrumental Music Activities

October 5	Rockville High School Band Night - Wood Band students play at Football Game
October 29	QSP Magazine Drive (Music Department Fundraiser) – tentative start date
November – TBA	Instrumental Music Performance at Barnes and Noble (PTA Fundraiser)
December 4, 6	Rockville High School Music Concerts (FYI)
December 5	Wood Middle School Winter Concert – RHS Auditorium
January 24	Rockville Cluster Concert – Rockville High School Auditorium
March 11	Advanced Orchestra performs at District II Orchestra Festival
March 13	Advanced Band performs at District II Band Festival
May 9	Band and Orchestra Spring Trip – Music in the Parks Festival at Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, VA (pending approval)
June 4	Wood Middle School Spring Concert – RHS Auditorium

** additional concerts and performances may be added

Montgomery County Instrumental Music Activities

September 24	MCPS Junior Jazz Auditions
November 5	MCPS Junior Honors Band/Orchestra Auditions (application deadline 10/5/07)
November 10	Maryland All State Junior Honors Auditions (application deadline 10/5/07)
December 8	MCPS Big Band Jazz Festival
January 8	MCPS Honors Strings/Band rehearsal begin (Junior and Sixth Grade)
February 2	MCPS Gala Concert (For members of the county band and orchestras)
February 5	MCPS Sixth Grade Honors Strings / Band Concert
March 7,8	District II Solo / Ensemble Festival (application deadline 2/2/08)
March 11	District II Orchestra Festival (Middle School)
March 13	District II Band Festival (Middle School)
April 22	MCPS Second Band Festival
May 6, 7	MODA / MBDA State band and Orchestra Festival
May 10, 17	MODA / MBDA State Solo & Ensemble Festivals

Instrumental Music 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 listed in this handbook.

The instrumental music grading policy is based on the Wood Middle School grading policy for 2006 - 2007. Grades are an evaluation of an individual student's overall achievement. Students will receive a final grade of A, B, C, D, or E. Final grade will be calculated as follows:

Achievement grade **90%** (40% Formative / 50% Summative)

The achievement grade reflects academic performance only. Grades will be calculated by dividing points earned by total points possible. Students will receive multiple opportunities to demonstrate achievement through a variety of assessments. This grade will be **40 % Formative Assessments** and **50 % Summative Assessments**.

Formative Assessments – 40 %

1. Performance during the daily classroom rehearsals
 - a. Students will need to demonstrate the following on a daily basis:
 - Proper position / posture
 - Correct notes
 - Characteristic tone quality
 - Good intonation
 - Correct rhythm
 - Correct articulation
 - Instrument Care
 - Demonstration of proper rehearsal techniques
 - b. Students will need to evaluate how their part fits with the rest of the ensemble and demonstrate good balance and blend.
 - c. This will be recorded in the grade book as a weekly performance grade.
2. Performance Quizzes – students will perform short solo selections from the method books and concert music as well as memorized scales.
3. Reading and writing assignments

Summative Assessments – 50 %

1. Performance Tests
2. Concerts / Performances (see the section on Concerts)
3. Written Tests

Assignment completion grade. 10%

Assignment completion is a report of the extent to which a student completes home and class assignments in a given period of time. Students will be expected to turn in a monthly practice calendar indicating evidence of productive home practice. If a student fails to turn in a practice calendar this will effect their assignment completion grade.

Grading Scale:	A	90-100
	B	80-89
	C	70-79
	D	60-69
	E	50-59

Learning skills:

1. Will be divided into two categories:
 - A. Participation-asking questions, giving ideas, using feedback, performing, and engaging in learning.
 - B. Assignment completion-completing homework and class work.
2. Will appear on the student progress report as C (consistently), O (often), S (sometimes), R (rarely), and NI (not enough information).

Late and missing work:

1. Each assignment, playing quiz, or test will have a **due date**. This is the date by which you are expected to submit the assignment. Grades will drop one letter grade if it is not turned in by the due date.
2. The **deadline** is the last day an assignment will be accepted for a grade. In some cases, the due date and the deadline may be the same. Work not turned in by the deadline will not earn credit. (0%)

Reassessment of student work:

1. Assessments may be reassessed one time, as may be reassessed partially, entirely, or in a different format.
2. Reassessment grade replaces the original grade.
3. Reassessment opportunities are identified by the teacher prior to the original assessment.
4. Exams, final playing tests and concerts may not be reassessed.

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 performance procedures.
4. Meet performance obligations as indicated on the school's comprehensive instrumental calendar.
5. Demonstrate mastery of instrumental performance skills in the areas of tone production, intonation, articulation, range, and memorized scales.
6. Read and perform appropriate MENC (Music Educators National Conference) grade level music
7. Sight read appropriate MENC grade level music.

+ (MCPS Program of Studies, Instrumental Music, Grades 6-8, pg. 2)

Classroom Rehearsal Procedures

Instrumental Music Students are expected to:

1. Arrive to class on time.
2. Follow directions given by the teacher.
3. Come to class prepared with instrument, music, pencil and necessary supplies (reeds, rosin, valve oil, etc.)
4. Respect the rights of others and do not talk when others are talking or playing.
5. Raise your hand to be called upon or get out of your seat.
6. Gum, candy, and food are not permitted in the music area during class or performances.
7. Learn how to take care of your instrument and protect it from damage.
8. Keep your instrument in good working condition and have necessary repair work completed promptly.
9. Never handle an instrument that does not belong to you.
10. Be supportive of classmates, never criticizing another individual's performance.
11. Listen carefully to the sound you are producing and do your best to analyze what you can do to improve it.
12. Bring a note from parent/guardian if you cannot play because of illness, dental work, etc., or if your instrument is in the shop.

Concert Procedures

1. Concert attendance is mandatory.
 2. Appropriate concert dress is required.

Boys: white shirt, black pants, black socks, black dress shoes

Girls: white blouses with sleeves, black floor length skirt or black dress pants, black stockings, black dress shoes
 3. Arrival time will be at least 45 minutes prior to the concert.
 4. During the concert students are expected to act in a professional manner. Classroom rehearsal procedures are to be followed.
- + (MCPS Program of Studies, Instrumental Music, Grades 6-8, pg. 2)

Practice Calendars

It is very important that everyone practices, not only for his/her own benefit but also for the benefit of the whole ensemble. All instrumental music students will receive a practice card / calendar at the beginning of every month. (September through May) Students will be expected to record the number of minutes practiced for each day of the month. The practice calendar will be collected on the first day of the month. Parents / Guardian's will be asked to verify that their child practiced by signing the top of the practice calendar.

Private Lessons

All students are encouraged to take private lessons. It is an invaluable experience intended for a students who have an interest in showing great improvement on his / her musical. Taking private lessons will provide the opportunity for increased musical success and wonderful musical experiences. Private lessons help students develop the skills to get into high school and college music programs and audition for county and state honors groups. There are numerous private teachers in Montgomery County area. Contact the director for more information.

Instrumental Music Sectionals

Sectionals are a major part of any good performing ensemble. Sectionals allow for a smaller group setting wherein specific needs can be addressed. We are able to deal with issues that concern the section as a whole as well as the individual student. Sectionals will take place before and after school.

Materials and Supplies for Instrumental Music

1. Pencils and binder (with music section)
2. Metronome and Tuner (sometimes can be found in combination form)
3. Instrument and Music (method books)

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, 3; Advanced - Vandoren 2, 3)
Alto/Bass Clarinet	Cleaning Swab*, cork grease, 4 reeds (see above)
Contra Alto Clarinet	2 reeds (Rico or LaVoz, strength 2 –3)
Alto/Tenor/Bari Sax	Neck Strap, cork grease, cleaning swab, 4 reeds (Beg & Int- LaVoz Medium; Advanced – Vandoren 2, 2.5)
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
Baritone/Tuba	Valve oil, tuning slide grease
Percussion	<u>6th graders</u> - snare sticks (Firth EP1 or Promark or Yamaha equivalent), xylophone mallets, stick bag <u>7th / 8th graders</u> – snare sticks (EP 2 or Promark SPP), xylophone mallets, bell mallets, timpani mallets (staccato or custom general)
Violin/Viola	Rosin, shoulder rest, cleaning cloth (not chemically treated) 1 spare set of strings (Dominant or equivalent)
Cello/Bass	Rosin, Rock Stop

Please complete and return by September 5, 2007

We have read the Wood MS Instrumental Music Handbook and are prepared to follow the policies and procedures of the music program. The performance dates have been noted.

Student Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Parent and/or Guardian _____

Daytime Phone _____

Parent and/or Guardian _____

Daytime Phone _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Please check the appropriate line:

I am willing to volunteer for the following activities:

_____ Fundraiser collections

_____ Chaperone concerts

_____ Chaperone field trips

_____ Transporting and setting up equipment and concerts