



Center Montessori School

2016-17 Band Program Handbook

Alicia Kennedy
Director

Purpose

The purpose of the Center Montessori Band Program is to impart an appreciation of music to all of its members through study and performance. In addition, students are given the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge of music that will prepare those students who have a desire for progression into the high school band program.

Foreword

This handbook is written as a guideline for students and parents and also outlines the procedures and practices of the program. There are a number of benefits that students can realize by participation in a band program. The intense concentration and training required to perform in band is the same kind of training that produces success in every field. Playing in the band develops coordination, organization, and mental discipline. Scholarship and musicianship go hand in hand. We look forward this year to many enjoyable musical experiences affording musical growth, accomplishment, appreciation, and recreation.

Band Classes

Fourth Grade Band

The fourth grade students will focus on learning percussion instruments and playing in a recorder ensemble. The students will learn bass drum, snare drum, bells, temple blocks, conga drums and a variety of hand held percussion instruments. A good understanding of beat and rhythm is essential to playing any instrument and percussion instruments are a fun way to develop these skills.

Fourth grade students will also play in a recorder ensemble, learning to play soprano, alto, tenor and bass recorders. This will give them the opportunity to learn to play different parts within a group which is excellent preparation for playing in the fifth grade band. The recorder is an ideal instrument to use to introduce woodwind techniques. Through percussion and recorder playing the students will learn basic music theory and playing skills that are necessary to play any instrument.

Students will need a percussion kit (drum pad with drumsticks, bells with mallets, and stand) which can be rented through local music stores and to purchase *Essential Elements for Band Percussion Book 1*. A metal folding music stand for use with home practice is also recommended.

Fifth Grade Band

The following is the procedure for current 5th grade band students. This year's 5th graders have already gone through the process of selecting their instruments. Each student is responsible for renting his/her instrument and purchasing the appropriate *Essential Elements for Band Book 1*. A metal folding music stand for use with home practice is also recommended.

For the first few weeks of Band Class, the students will spend time reviewing the fundamentals of music reading, rhythm reading and comprehension, as well as musical notation.

Middle School Concert Band

There will be one Band Class for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Any new students in these grades will go through an instrument selection process. All students are required to rent or buy their own instruments and purchase the appropriate *Essential Elements for Band Book 1*. Upon completion of Book 1, students will be required to purchase *Essential Elements for Band Book 2* to use for the remainder of the year. All other music is supplied by the school. A metal folding music stand for use with home practice is also recommended.

Private Lessons

Students who wish to advance at a faster rate than the group class provides are encouraged to take private lessons. A list of studios and private instructors will be available in the music room. Students who have switched instruments are required to take private lessons.

Instrument Care

Musical instruments need to be in good working condition for the student to be able to create beautiful sounds. Taking care of the instrument is the responsibility of each student. The instruments need to be handled with care, cleaned regularly and have all the necessary accessories (i.e. valve oil, reeds, cork grease, swab, etc). If your student forgets some of these items there is a class set of cleaning supplies that can be used in case of an emergency.

Supplies

All student should have the following supplies at all times:

- Instrument with appropriate maintenance and cleaning products
- Extra Reeds (for clarinet and saxophone players)
- A Pair of Drumsticks (for middle school percussionist)
- Essential Elements Book for your instrument
- Music Folder (provided by music store)
- Pencil(s)

Students are expected to have all these items with them for each Band Class. There are times when the last reed breaks, or the Essential Elements book is on the practice stand at home. In such a case there is a class set of Essential Elements books for students to use during class and there will also be reeds available for purchase. No money will be taken in class and the student's school account will be charged for any reeds they buy. This is not to take the place of students purchasing their own reeds.

Performances

There are two Band Concerts each school year. All band students are expected to perform at the Holiday program in December and at the Spring Band Concert in May. The dates will be posted on the school website and emailed to all parents. There will be volunteer opportunities for students to perform throughout the year and parents will be notified of the upcoming event and if their student is interested in participating.

Concert Performance Dress Code:

“Concert Black” attire is asked for all formal concerts. This is a standard dress from musicians around the world and usually consists of business casual black clothing.

Girls should wear full-length pants or skirts, with nice black shoes and tops. If a shorter skirt is worn the length must be below the knee and black tights should be worn with it. No tank tops or high heels, please.

Boys should wear nice black slacks, black dress shoes, and a nice black shirt. Polos are acceptable but please avoid t-shirts and other casual attire.

Classroom Expectations (Rehearsal Etiquette)

The following are guidelines for a successful Band Class and rehearsal:

- Bring your band instrument, book and supplies to every class.
- Enter the band room in a courteous and orderly manner.
- Be in your seat with all equipment ready to play two minutes after the scheduled starting time of class. (Make sure your instrument case is closed and out of any walking paths in the classroom.)
- Check the board for daily agenda and/or announcements.
- Begin individual warm-up and watch for the Director to signal for quiet.
- Keep your hands on your own instrument.
- No gum, candy, food or drinks allowed in the music room. You may bring a water bottle.
- Remain seated during rehearsal and follow the Director's instructions.
- Practice respect for your classmates, the Director, the instruments and the classroom environment.
- Good posture is of great importance.
- At the conclusion of rehearsal:
 - Carefully take your instrument apart, clean out the condensation, and put it back in the case.
 - Straighten the chairs and stands and clean your area.