

Missoula County Public Schools
Fine Arts Department



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

PARENT HANDBOOK
FOR
BEGINNING
BAND & ORCHESTRA
GRADE 5

Introduction

The Missoula County Public Schools 5-12 Instrumental Music Program offers students the challenge and reward of playing a musical instrument -- Woodwind, Brass, String, or Percussion. Students develop the ability to produce and appreciate music by our greatest composers, as well as a variety of styles from all genre of Western music. Instrumental music members develop a group camaraderie which provides continuity for them as they progress through their middle and high school years. Our program also enhances responsibility, self-esteem, individual identity, motivation, creativity, and **learning across the academic spectrum**.

Instrumental music instructors in MCPS are specialists on all band and string instruments. Instruction is given with patience, care, and encouragement. Instruction begins in the fifth grade, meeting at least two times a week in like-instrument classes, with one day a week as a full ensemble experience. In the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, students meet daily as a full orchestra or band.

This booklet is intended to answer questions you may have about the various instrumental music activities, opportunities, procedures, policies, and responsibilities. We are confident you will find participation in the program stimulating and rewarding.

Instrumental Instructors - Elementary

Jefferson School (542-4030)

Fine Arts Supervisor - John Combs (ext. 5021)

Fine Arts Assistant - Liddi Elrod (ext. 5080)

Band Director: Tim Aston (ext. 5047)

Orchestra Director: Pam Hillygus (ext. 5047)

The Fifth Grade Instrumental Team Serve the Following Schools:

Chief Charlo Elementary School - 542-4005

Cold Springs Elementary School - 542-4010

Lewis & Clark Elementary School - 542-4035

Lowell Elementary School - 542-4040

Paxson Elementary School - 542-4055

Rattlesnake Elementary School - 542-4065

Russell Elementary School - 542

Hawthorne Elementary School - 542-4020:

Orchestra Director - Janet Haarvig

Band Director - Brenda Griggs

Franklin Elementary School - 542-4025

Orchestra Director - Janet Haarvig

Band Director - Kristin Zschaechner

Meadow Hill Middle School (542-4045):

Orchestra Director - Eric Hutchins

Band Director - Randy Zschaechner

Porter Middle School (542-4060):

Orchestra Director - Mike Johns

Band Director - Jesse Dochnahl

Washington Middle School (542-4085):

Orchestra Director - Kirk Easter

Band Director - Matthew Tipton

Schedules

Students interested in instrumental music are encouraged to start in the fifth grade since there are no scheduled beginning classes in the upper grades. Beginning classes are available to all fifth grade students, and include instruction on the following instruments: Flute, Oboe, Violin, Clarinet, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Viola, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Cello, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, String Bass, Percussion (2years of piano required).

All fifth grade students will meet at least two times per week during the school day in thirty-minute sessions. During instrumental music classes, home room teachers will avoid presenting any new material and will use this time for more individualized help and instruction. Each student is responsible for knowing the instrumental music schedule and telling the home room teacher before leaving for lessons. It is a good idea to keep a current schedule in the instrument case or on a bulletin board at home. Each teacher will have a copy of the schedule posted in their classroom.

Attendance

Student attendance is required at each scheduled lesson or rehearsal so that individuals and the class as a whole may continue to make sequential progress. Students feel the best about music when learning new skills on their instruments, thus regular attendance is essential. As a member of the school band or orchestra, each student's participation and input is a vital part of every rehearsal. Even if a student forgets his or her instrument or music, he or she is still required to attend music class. Failure to attend class on time or forgetting proper equipment and supplies will result in a lowered daily grade. It is the policy of the school and the directors that a student cannot withdraw without written parental consent. Prior to sending written withdrawal notes, parents are encouraged to talk to the director, so that possible adjustments to their child's learning program may be attempted. No student will be dropped without prior notification of parents by a director. If a student and parent find it necessary to withdraw, it must be done at the conclusion of a quarter or during the first two weeks of the school year.

Practice

Individual practice is essential for self improvement as well as ensemble growth. Each student's musical talent cannot be realized until fundamental skills are developed. Developing solid practice habits is a discipline that takes daily effort. Students can improve the quality of practice time if implementing the following guidelines:

Practice alone, away from distractions.

Schedule a practice time and stick to it.

Practice at the same time each day.

Be aware of posture while practicing.

Practice with a friend occasionally; play duets!

Practice to improve, not just to "put in the time".

Play concerts for family and friends often.



Performance Opportunities

- Holiday programs
- PTA and service group performances
 - Spring concerts
 - Solo and ensemble day
- School assembly performances
- Summer Band and Orchestra

Concert Etiquette

Orchestra students are encouraged to wear black and white for all concerts. Band students wear a school band shirt which they check out at their schools for performances. Part of the participation and learning in band and orchestra is focused **listening** to other groups and well as **performing**. There should be **no** talking while groups are performing. Each student is expected to be present for the **entire** concert. Parents are encouraged to remain for the entire concert too! We also expect that parents & students refrain from texting & talking on cell phones during the concert.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are highly recommended for all orchestra and band students, however, they are **not required**. A good private instructor can enhance enjoyment and improvement with one-on-one instruction on various performance problems.

Instrument Selection

Beginning students may start on one of the following instruments:

Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Saxophone, Trombone, Violin, and Viola are typically rented from a local music store or the School District.

French Horn, Baritone, Tuba, Oboe, Bassoon, Cello and String Bass are usually rented from the School District.

The choice of an instrument is completely up to you and your child. We have found that the student is more apt to practice on his/her instrument if they have a voice in the selection. However, your director is always more than happy to offer suggestions. If you plan to rent an instrument from the school district, please call 542-4030 (the Fine Arts Department Office) to see if an instrument is available. They are available on a first come, first served basis and are gone fast! All school instruments are rented through the Fine Arts Office at Jefferson School.

Instrument Care and Repairs

Instrument Case - labeled with name, address, phone number, school, and instrument teacher.

Cleaning supplies and accessories - cleaning cloth, reeds, pencil, valve oil, mute, rosin.

Instrument checkup with qualified repairman once a year.

Occasionally an instrument is out of adjustment, needs new strings or becomes damaged. The student cannot make progress if the instrument doesn't play. Most repairs should be made by a qualified repairman. Your director will send a note home if progress is impaired by an instrument problem.

Instrumental Music Stores/Repair Shops in Missoula

Electronic Sound and Percussion	819 South Higgins	728-1117
Outlaw Music	1706 Brooks St.	541-7533
Music Medics	333 SW Higgins	549-0889
Morgenroth Music Center	1105 W. Sussex	549-0013
Stringed Instrument Division	323 N. Higgins	549-1502
Charles Seitz (Strings)	600 SW Higgins Ave.	542-9222
Mark Hollinger (Strings)	5075 Lupine Road	542-2012

Student and Parent Responsibilities

Band and Orchestra students are expected to:

1. Attend scheduled classes
2. Take good care of instrument, case, and music
3. Sit with correct posture and instrument position during rehearsals and performances
4. Develop good home practice routines
5. Participate in scheduled concerts and activities

Band and Orchestra parents are asked to:

1. Provide student with an instrument that is in good playing condition
2. Encourage and help develop good practice routines
3. Participate as an enthusiastic audience at scheduled concerts and

BUY, BORROW or RENT?

1. Renting with an Option to Buy From A Local Music Store

Advantages:

1. Quality new or used instrument
2. Local servicing if problems occur
3. Relatively easy payments
4. Small outlay of money if student drops
5. Easy exchange policy if choice was not appropriate

Disadvantages: 1. Finance charges added to the cost of the instrument

Recommendation: **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

2. Borrowing or Buying a Second-Hand Instrument.

Advantages: 1. Lower Cost

Disadvantages: 1. Instrument available may not be suited to the child

2. Instrument may be in poor condition
3. No recourse to dealer if repairs are needed

Recommendation: Recommended only if instrument is pre-checked by teacher

3. Renting a School-Owned Instrument.

Advantages:

1. Low cost
2. An option to play expensive instruments
3. "Doubles" for bigger instruments provided while supplies last

Disadvantages: 1. Limited number and selection of instruments

2. Student never owns the instrument

Recommendation: Recommended if the student wishes to play an unusual band instrument or where financial considerations would make playing otherwise impossible.

Progress Reports and Student Assessment

Orchestra and Band members receive a progress report at the end of each quarter. The report reflects growth in skills, areas in need of improvement, strong points that have contributed to progress, and participation. Progress report results are dependent upon a student's improvement, practice habits, behavior in class, rehearsals and concerts.

Grading

90-100 points = A

80 - 89 points = B

70 - 79 points = C

60 - 69 points = D

Each student begins each quarter with zero points. The students earn their grade by accumulating points throughout the quarter. The students may accumulate points in a variety of ways, including playing tests, turning in practice slips, participating in concert performances, extra help sessions, and attending concerts and recitals. This method of grading minimizes subjectivity and places the responsibility upon the student.

Points System

+10 points - Each performance test achieved

+5-10 points - Completed Practice slip

+25 points - Concert Performance

Extra Credit offered for attending live concerts, extra help sessions, and completed theory sheet.

General Rules

1. Clean instrument after every rehearsal and practice period.
2. Keep instrument in working order - have repairs done if needed.
3. Keep your feet off your case.
4. Don't stuff books, folders and music in your instrument case.
5. Don't let others play on your instrument.
6. Be careful not to bump others while playing, as damage or injury may result.
7. Treat music with care. Keep music in a folder. Mark with pencil only.
8. The student is responsible for the replacement cost of lost music or school equipment.
9. Renting instruments from MCPS is a privilege; damage or mis-treatment of instrument may lead to loss of rental privileges.

Music

Parents are asked to purchase the following instruction books:

Band - Essential Elements 2000 Book 1

Orchestra - The school district will supply 5th grade orchestra books. The director will inform students if other books need to be purchased.

Sheet music for orchestra and band students is provided by the school district. Students are expected to care for

Insurance

It is strongly recommended that parents make arrangements for a rider on their homeowners insurance policy to cover the cost of replacing each instrument. Storage is provided for all instruments. Band and orchestra rooms are locked when not in use. It is strongly recommended that all instruments to be taken home on weekends and holiday breaks.

Outline of Band Performance Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Time
Oct. 23	Clarinet/Oboe	Jefferson Center	6:30pm
Oct. 23	Sax/Bassoon	Jefferson Center	7:30pm
Oct. 24	Brass (CC, CS, FR, HA)	Jefferson	6:30 pm
Oct. 24	Brass (L&C, LO, PA, RA, RU)	Jefferson	7:30 pm
Oct. 29	Flutes	Jefferson Center	6:30 pm
Oct. 29	Percussion	Jefferson Center	7:30 pm

Holiday Concerts in December — Dates to be Arranged
Please check Fine Arts Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
Mar 5	Bandfest	Jefferson	Afternoon
Mar 5..	Bandfest Concert	Washington	7:00pm
May 9	5th Grade Solo Day	Missoula Alliance Church	TBA
June 3	End of Year Tours (a.m.)	FR, HA, Jefferson*	8:30-12:15
June 3	End of Year Tours (p.m.)	C.S.: Jefferson	10:30-12:15
June 4	End of Year Tours (a.m.)	RU, CC, Jefferson*	8:30-12:15
June 5	End of Year Tours (a.m.)	PA, L&C, Jefferson*	8:30-12:15
June 6	End of Year Tours (a.m.)	LO, RA, Jefferson*	8:30-12:15

*End of Year Tours begin at schools and then travel to Jefferson to return instruments.

Outline of Orchestra Performance Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Time
Oct. 22	String O'Rama	Jefferson Center	
	(Chief Charlo, Cold Springs, Franklin, Hawthorne)		6:30pm
	(Paxson, Rattlesnake, Russell, Lowell, Lewis & Clark)		7:30pm

Holiday Concerts in December — Dates to be Arranged
Please check Fine Arts Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Time
Apr. 15	5 th /6 th Gr. Orchestra Festival	Sentinel High School	7:00pm
	Rehearsal 12:45-2:00pm same day		
May 9	5 th Grade Solo Day	Missoula Alliance Church	Schedule TBA
June 3	End of Year Tours	FR, HA, Jefferson*	8:30-12:15
June 3		C.S.; Jefferson	10:30-12:15
June 4	End of Year Tours	RU, CC, Jefferson*	8:30-12:15
June 5	End of Year Tours	PA, L&C, Jefferson*	8:30-12:15
June 6	End of Year Tours	LO, RA, Jefferson*	8:30-12:15

*End of Year Tours begin at schools and then travel to Jefferson to return instruments.

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Missoula community and the world at

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Make Checks Payable to: **MCPS Fine Arts**, 1700 South Ave. West. Missoula, MT 59801

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