



**Center
Instrumental
Music**

**Handbook
2015-16**



CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM (Orchestra edition) HANDBOOK 2015-16

Welcome to the Center Middle School Instrumental Music Program. This handbook is for parents as well as students to help them become acquainted with our music program. Please take the time to read this document as it will explain our expectations, procedures and answer some questions you might have. Please save this document for further reference.

The instrumental music program at Center Middle School is one of the premier programs in northeast Ohio. We are very proud of our successful past and optimistic about our future as a Middle School program. As directors of instrumental music, we always take pride in our students and the many opportunities that we can provide for our young musicians.

Participation in our program offers an experience that will benefit our students for the rest of their lives. Self-discipline, commitment, motor skills, cognitive thinking, and working together with a large group are just a few benefits of participating in such a program

Many students coming into our program have reservations for various reasons. This is normal for some students. Our program may seem a little overwhelming to incoming seventh graders. My advice to those students and parents is to “stick with it”. It is easy to drop out of something, but it is hard to drop into something. Take the opportunity to participate in a successful middle school program.

Our goal is to educate the student in musical skills through preparation and performance and to provide as many quality experiences as possible. Our program is a full year course and classes meet every day. We expect each student to participate for the full year. If you have, questions or concern at any time through the year please call or e-mail.

Christopher Chidsey, Band Director

Tanya Rogers, Orchestra Director: trogers@scsmustangs.org

PROGRAM POLICIES, EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is very important to a musical ensemble. Many times when we are in large groups, the tendency is to think that one person missing is not going to make that much of a difference. In a musical group that is simply not true! Whenever someone is missing out of a musical group, the sound is different. This difference affects everybody in the group. Every person in our ensemble is important to our sound. This makes it equally important to be at every performances and participate in all rehearsals.

For these reasons, we are very strict about attendance and as a result, it affects a student's grade. Grading policy is mentioned later please take time to read and understand them.

A schedule of all known performances and rehearsals for 2014-15 is included with this packet. Please mark your calendar and do not lose this information. All students are responsible for the dates listed:

Reason accepted as an excused absence:

1. Personal illness
2. Death in family
3. Family emergency
4. Specific school related performances
5. Reasons stated in the CMS student handbook

To be considered excused, a note must be given **before** the absence. In an emergency, a note afterwards explaining the situation is sufficient. All absences will be considered unexcused until a note is presented.

Reasons **NOT** accepted as an excused absence:

1. Concerts, movies, sporting events, professional sporting events, etc...
2. No ride
3. I forgot
4. Reasons stated in the CMS handbook

Parents can help by not scheduling vacations, doctor appointments, and other activities that can be changed. We realize that sometimes these cannot be avoided, but your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated and help us run a quality organization. Students with excused absences must make up missed performances by playing the music for the director within one week of the missed performance.

REHEARSALS

Regular rehearsals are during the school day. During rehearsals, it is expected that the student concentrate on the music at hand, be attentive during class, have the proper materials for class (instrument, music, reeds, pencil, etc.) and behave in a manner that permits the rehearsal to progress. Distractions will not be tolerated and such problems will be reflected in the student grade (see Grading Policy) and dealt with according to the classroom and Center Middle School discipline policies.

Extra rehearsals may be scheduled as needed especially for combined events and concerts. Advance notice will be given for any rehearsals that will occur outside of the school day.

CHAIR CHALLENGES

After the initial seating audition at the beginning of the year, students may receive the opportunity to challenge for a higher chair. Current music in the folder or technique books will be used for the challenge.

DRESS CODE FOR CONCERTS

Men: Music department shirt
Black pants (**No jeans**)
Dress shoes (**No tennis shoes**)

Ladies: Music department shirt
Black pants or skirt (**No jeans or yoga pants**)
Dress shoes (**No tennis shoes or sandals**)

****Shirts must be tucked in****

This is the same dress code as previous years. Students new to Center or that have outgrown their shirt will need to order a shirt. Order form will be passed out to the students during the first week of school.

PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS

All privately owned instruments will be assigned lockers, and the students must supply their own combination lock. Assigned lockers and associated combinations will be recorded in the locker book. Students should always keep their locker locked whether the instrument is there or not. It is strongly recommended that all students have insurance on their instruments. Insurance companies offer riders to homeowner policy for musical instruments. The school is not responsible for privately owned instruments.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Students who use a school owned instrument are required to sign an instrument contract, which requires them to take responsibility for that instrument. The instrument is issued in playable condition and all defects are noted on the contract. All students using school equipment are expected to take care of said equipment and keep it in good condition. The cost for damage to instruments above normal wear and tear will be assessed to the student. The privilege of using a school owned instrument will be revoked for students who are not taking proper care of the instrument.

New for 2014/2015 school year: Students using school owned instruments (except for percussion) will be assessed a \$15 fee for instrument rental. This fee is to help maintain the normal upkeep of school owned instruments.

PRIVATE LESSONS

It is encouraged that students take private lessons. A private teacher can focus on the individual technique needed for each student where Orchestra class is focused on ensemble playing. There are many great teachers in the Strongsville area and the directors have a private teacher list.

GRADES

Grades will be weighted as follows: Performance 40%, Class participation and effort 30%, and Evaluation 30%. In a quarter without a performance class participation / effort and evaluation will be split 50 – 50.

Performance – Band and Orchestra is a performance based class, so consider performances to be similar to end of unit tests in any other subject. The students work toward a goal of demonstrating their musical knowledge during the concert. Therefore, attendance is critical! EVERY student is equally important to the make-up of the ensemble, and even one missing student can alter the performance.

All performances are mandatory and graded. To receive an A, students should have music prepared, wear proper concert attire and demonstrate good behavior at the concert. Failure to attend will result in a grade of F for the concert. Excused absence as listed in the handbook will require make up work within one week of the missed concert. This assignment consists of the student performing the concert music for the director. **Students are required to stay for the entirety of each concert.**

Performance score rubric: Performances are typically worth 200 points and are assigned based on the following conditions:

20 pts - attendance 20 pts - proper concert attire, 60 pts - proper concert etiquette,
100 pts - performance of concert music

Class Participation – Each student will receive 10 pts each day. Students may not earn full credit due to the following: (1) forgetting instrument, music or materials (2) lack of participation in class activities (3) Lack of attention during class (4) **Excessive socialization** and (5) being late to class. Points deducted for forgotten equipment or materials are as follows:

Instrument: 10 Pencil: 4 Tardy: 2
Music: 4-10 Shoulder Rest: 4 Excessive socialization: 4-10

Evaluation – Students will receive a numerical score on written and playing exams. Playing exams will be graded as follows:

- A 90%–100% student has solid tone production and excellent intonation. Musicianship skills are well developed, but not always consistent. A few minor note and rhythmic errors occurred. Excellent posture while performing. A fine performance.
- B 80%-89% student has a fair tone with a few intonation problems. Several errors occur in the execution of both notes and rhythms. Musical details are sparse. The beat and tempo fluctuate throughout. A good performance.
- C 70%–79% student has a weak tone quality. Intonation is a major problem. Few notes are correct and rhythms are poorly executed. Many stops and starts interrupt the flow. A weak performance.
- D 60%–69% student is extremely weak in all areas of tone, intonation, rhythm, horn position and musicianship. A steady beat does not exist. An abundance of incorrect notes exist. Student begins performance, but fails to continue. A poor performance.
- F 59%-0% Student fails to perform required music.

**** Special consideration given to students that have switched to new instruments ****

7th Grade

Seventh grade Orchestra students will be working from the “Essential Elements 2 2000 edition.” Students will be responsible for performing assigned exercises from the book or from music provided in class for a grade. This may be done in class or recorded at home (details will be provided.) If recording cannot be completed at home, they can use AA, before, or after school.

8th Grade

Eighth grade Orchestra students will be working from the “Essential Techniques 2000 edition.” Students will be responsible for performing assigned exercises from the book or from music provided in class for a grade. Eighth graders will have at least 2 playing tests each quarter and will be either recorded at home using threering.com, or perform in class on the assigned day.

Extra Credit Students may earn the following extra credit each quarter. The appropriate forms must be filled out in order to receive extra credit.

- Weekly Private Lessons on instrument played at school. Student will pick up a form to be signed by private lesson teacher and turned in the last week of each quarter.
- Solo at the Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Ensemble at the Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Participate in OMEA district 4 honors festival

Music

Music will be provided for students. All music should be kept in each students’ three ring binder. The binder should always go home when a students’ instrument goes home and be brought back when the instrument is brought to school (with the exception of cellos and basses.)

Orchestra Supply List

7th grade Orchestra:

Combination lock

Essential Elements Book 2

1" 3 ring binder

Violins and Violas: Shoulder rest

Cellists and bassists should have their own instruments at home to use for practice.

8th grade Orchestra:

Combination lock

Essential Elements Book 2 + Essential Techniques 2000

1" 3 ring binder

Violins and Violas: Shoulder rest

Cellists and bassists should have their own instruments at home to use for practice.



Center Orchestra CONCERT SCHEDULE 2015-16

Listed below is the 2015-2016 school year calendar of events for the band. Please mark the dates that apply to your child on your calendar and reserve that time to enjoy your child's performance, which is the culmination of long hours of preparation. All students are required to attend all performances of their ensemble. This list may be adjusted with additional performances if opportunities occur for their ensemble. In the event of additional performances students will be given one week from the announcement of the extra performance to present a conflict in written form signed by their parent

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PERFORMANCE GROUP</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Wednesday, Oct. 21	7th & 8th Orchestra, Chamber Strings Fall Concert	7:00 PM	Center Gym
Monday, Dec. 14th	All Groups: Winter concert Orchestras 6:45pm Bands 8:00pm	6:45 PM & 8:00 PM	Center Gym
Tuesday, Dec. 15th	All Groups: Assembly Concert For Center	8:20 AM	Center Gym
Saturday, Mar. 12th	Middle School OMEA honors festival (Nominated students)	TBA	Avon Lake
Saturday, Mar. 15th	Greater Cleveland Solo & Ensemble Contest-	Times assigned by individual groups	Greenbrier MS
Thursday, April 7th	All-City Orchestra Festival, Part II	7:00 PM	SHS Auditorium
May 13th	OMEA Large Group Contest	TBA	Lorain High School
Sat, May 14th	Music in the Parks Competition (additional fee- selected groups)	All day	Cedar Point
Tuesday, May 17th	All Groups (Spring Concert)	7:00 PM	Center Gym

CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

We have read and reviewed online (or the paper copy that students received) the 2015-16 Center Middle School Instrumental Music Program Handbook. We understand and agree to abide by the policies and procedures listed. We have reviewed the concert schedule, and understand that these performances are a required part of the course.

Student Name _____
(Please Print)

Student Signature _____

Parent / Guardian Signature _____

Parent e-mail address(es) for updates, reminders, etc.:

Best contact phone number _____

Which is your preferred method of contact? _____ email _____ phone

Date _____

Students have the handbook in their Orchestra binder (provided from our Orchestra fundraising account,) or you can view our handbook from the homepage at:

<http://www.strongnet.org/Page/3379>

In addition, please take 2 minutes on the homepage to sign up for our Orchestra Remind program and mailing list to receive text and e-mail reminders/information about events.

**Students should return this form by Tuesday, August 25th, 2015.
Questions? Please contact me at rogers@scsmustangs.org**