



Performing Arts Department  
Instrumental Music

**Beginning Instrumental Music**  
**Sign-Up Night Meeting Agenda – September 11, 2019**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- a. Overview of the Wilmington Public Schools' Instrumental Music (IM) Program
- b. Our philosophy of music education: *Music for a lifetime!!*

**II. TEACHER AND PARENT EXPECTATIONS OF THE IM STUDENT**

- a. We ask the beginning IM student to try to make a one-year commitment
- b. We expect the student to be prepared at each lesson with their instrument, lesson book (ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS, Book 1 for Band and STRING BASICS by Shade & Woolstenhulme for Strings), and a pencil.  
*PLEASE LEAVE ALL MUSIC STANDS AT HOME!*
- c. We expect students to practice their instruments 10 minutes a day, 4 - 5 days a week in order to be successful (more time is welcome, less is not helpful).
- d. Instrumental Music lessons are scheduled as pull out classes, where the music student leaves his/her classroom or subject to attend lessons, once a week at varying times on an assigned day each week. We work with the classroom teachers to minimize the amount of class time a student leaves their room. If the IM student is taking a test, learning a new concept, or struggling with a particular subject, we expect the student to remain in their classroom at these times. We will do our best to find a time to make up his/her missed lesson.
- e. We require the IM student to make up all of the work that they miss in their classroom in a timely fashion.
- f. The music staff will maintain excellent communication with the parents via phone calls, e-mails, and quarterly progress reports.
- g. **Parents are asked to evaluate their child's maturity level and review the child's schedule (including school & homework time/sports/enrichment classes & other activities) to ascertain the students' ability to take on the responsibility of caring for and practicing a musical instrument.**
- h. Parents are asked to LABEL their child's instrument case and lesson book. Please include the child's first and last name, school, and classroom.
- i. Parents are asked to provide a suitable place in the home for their child to practice that will be relatively free from distractions. Additionally, we ask parents to occasionally monitor and encourage their child in practice sessions. A parent signature on the child's practice record will be required each week.
- j. We encourage parents to contact the music staff at anytime with questions, concerns, or "if the going gets tough" with practicing.

### III. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSON SCHEDULING

- a. Your child's lesson day will remain pretty much the same throughout the school year.
- b. The time of the lesson will be rotated throughout the school day so that the student does not miss the same instructional block more than once every 5 -6 weeks.
- c. **ALL BEGINNING IM STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE THEIR FIRST LESSON SCHEDULE BY FRIDAY 9/13/19**
- d. Beginning IM lessons will start at the NIS and WIS schools on the week of September 16, 2019. Students are required to have their instruments and materials.


### IV. SKILLS AND ABILITIES OF BEGINNING IM STUDENTS

- a. During the first few lessons, the students will learn how to correctly assemble and care for their instrument.
- b. During the first month, students will also learn the basics of how to correctly hold the instrument and the physical mechanics of producing a tone (sound) on the instrument.
- c. Students will be introduced to basic music symbols and will learn to read music.
- d. Beginning IM students will have the opportunity to perform this year during in-school concerts, the Spring Strings Festival (May 5, 2020) and the Spring Band Festival (May 7, 2020)

### V. CARING FOR THE NEW INSTRUMENT

- a. **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO TRY TO ASSEMBLE OR PLAY THE INSTRUMENT BEFORE THE FIRST LESSON!!!**  
(This includes percussion equipment!) **PERCUSSIONISTS will bring their entire drum kit to school for the first lesson ONLY, and then just their pad/sticks/book for all other lessons.**
- b. All students who play wind instruments are advised against sharing their instruments/letting their friends play their instruments as germs are passed along on the mouthpiece of their instrument.
- c. We will be practicing RESPONSIBILITY: Students will be expected to remember to bring their instruments and lesson materials to school on lesson days. We will not permit calls home for forgotten instruments or materials.
- d. **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO TRY TO ASSEMBLE OR PLAY THE INSTRUMENT BEFORE THE FIRST LESSON!!!** (This includes percussion equipment!)
- e. All students will be reminded that the only place to play their instruments is in the IM classroom at school and at home, and NOT on the bus, at the bus stop, in the cafeteria or at recess, etc.

### **ALL BEGINNING IM STUDENTS MUST HAVE AN INSTRUMENT BY THEIR FIRST LESSON NEXT WEEK.**



**TO DO LIST**

- Get an instrument and book:  
"Essential Elements, Bk. 1 "(Band) OR  
"String Basics" by Shade/Woolstenhulme (Strings)
- LABEL the instrument case and book (Child's name, school, room number)
- Look for your child's lesson schedule by FRIDAY 9/13  
Also available on the band and strings websites
- Prepare for a lifetime of music enjoyment!