



# 2018-2019 Instrumental Music Handbook

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# The Instrumental Music Schedule

## **Lessons:**

Students are grouped together by instrument for their lessons. Students attend lessons once a week for 30 minutes. Our schedule will rotate to avoid missing the same class time each week.

## **Band and Orchestra/Concerts:**

Full Band and Orchestra will begin meeting as large groups in October. This will allow students to learn the dynamics of playing in a mixed instrument setting and allow for preparation for our performance in the winter and spring program. All students in instrumental music are expected to attend these programs.

## **Responsibilities:**

Students are expected to maintain good behavior, good study skills, and good grades in all of their classes. Students are responsible for making up any lesson material that was missed if they were unable to attend their scheduled instrumental music lesson. Students are equally responsible for making up academic work they miss while at lessons. They will be responsible for choosing a band buddy to take notes for them while in lessons. Fifth grade teachers are very supportive of this.

## **Commitment:**

Instrumental Music is a **year-long course**; students are expected to honor their commitment to the program. Problems with behavior or grades will be addressed as they occur. Problems with motivation are common around February or March. It is even more important to continue to encourage positive practice routines through these times. Students may not “quit band” without a conference between Mrs. Hutton, parents, and student. Communication between parents,

students, and teacher are key, so feel free to contact me at any time,  
for any reason!

## **How can parents help their child succeed in music?**

### **Suitable Instrument:**

Provide your child with a suitable, reliable instrument. A beginner cannot overcome an instrument that is not in good playing condition. Make sure the instrument is kept in good repair and is supplied with all necessary accessories. **Please contact me ASAP if you will be unable to provide an instrument!**

### **Daily Practice:**

It is necessary for your child to have an established practice routine. (FYI: Four or five days of practicing 15-20 minutes will be much more effective than one day of an hour or more.) Practicing is their homework and should be reinforced as such. Home practice is necessary for them to make progress and gain confidence in their playing. Students who practice regularly have much more fun and progress further in lessons. Help your child establish his/her practice routine.

### **Music Stand:**

A music stand for your home is necessary for your child to achieve the correct playing posture and breathing habits. They can usually be purchased for around \$15. I have some older, folding music stands available to borrow for the school year, contact me for information.

### **Praise:**

Praise will be your most effective tool. Use it generously when your child does his/her work well, praising effort and progress as well as when skills are achieved. Encourage and applaud regular performances at home and for friends and family!

## **\*\*Required Materials Checklist\*\***

- An instrument in good playing condition.
- A method book.
  - Band members (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba) Sound Innovations for Concert Band
  - Percussion members- Sound Innovations for Concert Band – Combined Percussion
  - String members (violin, viola, cello, bass) Sound Innovations for String Orchestra
- **All reed players (clarinet, saxophone and oboe)** must have a cleaning swab, cork grease, and at least **2** good reeds **at all times**. How often you need to buy reeds will depend on each student. Encourage careful handling of reeds. Expect to go through at least 1-2 reeds a month. Clarinet or Sax-Juno brand size #2½ or 3 (It is more cost effective to buy the 10 count boxes); Oboes-Med/Soft (I recommend buying 3 at a time so that students always have a back-up reed)
- **All flute players** should have a cleaning rod and a soft cloth (such as a handkerchief or a square cut from an old (soft) t-shirt) to be kept in their case and used after each playing session.
- **All brass players** must have valve oil (trumpets, horns, euphoniums, tuba) or slide oil (trombones) in their cases at all times. Students will be taught how to use these products in lessons. An old, soft cloth is a must for cleaning up oil and/or spit.
- **All String players** must have rosin in their cases at all times. In addition, string players should keep a soft absorbent cloth in their case to wipe off the strings and body of the instrument after each use.

Please sign and return this page (only). Please keep the rest of the handbook in a convenient place in case you have any questions in the future.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read this handbook and understand what is expected of me as an instrumental music student.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will conduct myself in a manner that is representative of the values of Sparks Elementary and our community.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that instrumental music is a full year commitment.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will come to lessons each week prepared with my instrument, lesson book, pencil and folder.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date