



Center Montessori School

Band Program Handbook

2017-2018
School Year

Mrs. 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 successful study and performance. In addition, those students with the interest, talent, and dedication are given the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge of music that will prepare the student for progression into a high school band program.

Foreword

This handbook is written as a guideline to explain to Band students and parents what is expected of them in Band. This handbook will also outline the procedures and practices of the program.

While Band has a definite curriculum and expected competencies, there are some aspects of the Band curriculum that require participation outside of the normal school day. Students and parents should understand that the success of the Band depends on each Band member being in place to perform his/her responsibility to the group and that participation is required of each member. Students should be prepared to spend time outside of class or rehearsal time practicing in order to become proficient at playing their instrument. Taking private lessons is strongly encouraged.

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 a band is the same kind of training that produces success in every field. Playing in a band develops coordination, organization, and mental discipline. Scholarship and musicianship go hand in hand.

Through the cooperation of every student, parent, and teacher, we can have many enjoyable musical experiences affording musical growth, accomplishment, appreciation, and recreation. Students will experience many hours of work and play as a member of the band, and hopefully each member will share in the spirit of doing a quality job!

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 Concert Band. The recorder is an ideal instrument to use to introduce woodwind techniques. Through percussion and recorder playing, students will learn basic music theory and playing skills that are necessary to play any instrument.

Students will need 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

For the first few weeks of Band Class, the fifth grade students will spend time reviewing the fundamentals of music reading, rhythm reading and comprehension, musical notation as well as going through the process of instrument/mouthpiece testing. In the instrument testing process, I will work with each student to try to match him or her up with the instrument that is best suited for the student, while also making sure I start the right number of students on each instrument so as to keep a balanced instrumentation and not be overloaded with any specific instrument. There are many factors that are taken into account when determining instrument selection, including their level of success when trying out a particular instrument. There are also physical characteristics such as hand and finger size, lip and teeth structure, and the physical size of the student. I do try to give students and parents a voice in this process, however, the final decision on instrument selection is ultimately that of the Band Director.

Once the instrument testing process is complete, students will be asked to rent their selected instruments along with purchasing the appropriate *Essential Elements for Band Book 1* for their instrument. A metal folding music stand for use with home practice is also recommended.

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 the instrument selection process outlined in the 5th Grade Band section of the handbook. All students are required to rent or buy their own instrument 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 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 that which a group class provides are encouraged to take private lessons. A list of studios and private instructors will be available in the music room. Students that 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. There are detailed instructions and video demonstrations on the band page on the CMS website at <http://www.centermontessori.org/band.html>.

Supplies

All students 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 required Band Concerts. All Band students are expected to perform at the Holiday Program in December and at the Spring Band Concert in May. This is considered to be a part of the Band Class. 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 with nice black shoes and tops. 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. Due to the number of students in each class these guidelines will maintain a successful rehearsal environment. These are as follows:

1. Enter the band room in a courteous and orderly manner.
2. 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.)
3. Check the board for daily agenda and/or announcements.
4. Begin individual warm-up and watch for the director to signal for quiet.
5. Keep your hands on your own instrument.
6. No gum, candy, food or drinks allowed in the music room. You may bring a water bottle as long as it is spill-proof.
7. Remain seated during rehearsal and follow the director's instructions.
8. Practice respect for your classmates, the director, the instruments and the classroom environment.
9. Good posture is of great importance.
10. At the conclusion of rehearsal:
 - A. Carefully take your instrument apart, clean out the condensation, and put it back in the case.
 - B. Straighten the chairs and stands and clean your area.