

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2019-2020

# Band & Orchestra Handbook



- Welcome
- Expectations
- Grading
- Concert Information
- Communication and Staying Informed
- Music Stores in the Area (addresses and phone numbers)
- SmartMusic
- Commitment and Its Importance to being College and Career Ready
- Why We Teach Music!

**BOOKMARK AND VISIT THE  
PES INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WEBSITE**

**<http://pesinstrumental.weebly.com/>**

Miss Seward will also post on **Schoology:**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Music Instrumental **Section 076**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Music Exploratory **Section 075**

Dear Band and Orchestra Parents / Students,

I am very excited to start our musical journey together. This handbook will tell you everything that you need to know about getting started or continuing in band/orchestra, as well as how to succeed for the year.

In this handbook, you will find:

- Band and Orchestra Expectations
- Concert expectations and concert dress code
- Contact Information for Miss Seward
- A list of music stores in our area
- Grading information/Commitment

The last page of the handbook is VERY IMPORTANT. It is a sample of the contract that you must sign (both student and parent) and return to Miss Seward by your next lesson. Please understand that you are making a year-long commitment and that Band/Orchestra, once you have enrolled, are ACTUAL classes that you are receiving a grade for each marking term.

Let's have a great year!

Musically Yours,  
Miss Seward



## **Band and Orchestra EXPECTATIONS**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

- Students are to come to their scheduled lessons on time. Instrument out, book, folder, and pencil on the stand at the required time.
- Students are to attend all scheduled lessons (if they are in school that day – at the time of the lesson).
- Students may only be excused from a lesson if the classroom teacher has filled out an excuse slip. (Acceptable reasons: student finishing test, finishing classwork, etc...) (Un-acceptable reasons: forgot band/orchestra supplies, behavior issues in the classroom, detention, owing recess, missing homework, etc...)
- Excuse slips are to be given to Miss Seward on the day and at the time of the lesson! Students **MUST** check in before being sent back to class with an excuse slip.
- In the case of an excused or unexcused absence the student must check in with Miss Seward **THAT** day to find out the practice assignment (and pick up necessary papers: Schedules, Practice Charts, etc...)

### **PRACTICE JOURNALS:** (will start in late October/Early November)

- Students will be creating a PRACTICE JOURNAL to record their assignments, goals, and reflect on their achievements.
- The journal will consist of pages to record their practicing as well as goal setting pages and reflection pages.
- The journal will be checked at each lesson, and turned in at the end of each marking term.
- Students are responsible for maintaining accurate records in their practice journal.

### **AT HOME PRACTICE**

- Students are expected to practice a **minimum of 60 minutes per week**.
- Students are required to practice most days for at least 10 - 15 minutes.
- The students may take one/two day(s) of rest from their practicing per week (marked “free” on the practice chart).
- Students are reminded to practice intelligently (using the strategies we learn about in lessons and referring to their practice journals).
- Students should record their daily practice accurately on their practice charts. Charts will be checked weekly for feedback.
- Practice Journals are turned in at the end of the marking term.

### **PREPARATION**

- Students must have at all lessons:
  - Instrument (in working condition)
  - Accessories (if needed)
  - Book
  - Binder with music/resource sheets
  - 2 sharpened pencils
  - Yellow Highlighter
  - Practice Journal

## **INSTRUMENT REPAIR**

Students or parents will notify Miss Seward **immediately** if an instrument is in need of repair.

Phone: 410-887-7663 (PES)

Email: [kseward2@bcps.org](mailto:kseward2@bcps.org) (email is preferred)

## **SCHEDULES**

- Students will have their lesson on the same DAY each week, however, the times will rotate each week so that students do not miss the same class/portion of class every week.
- Each instrument group will have one 30 minute lesson per week.
- There will also be Full Band /Full Orchestra rehearsals for 5<sup>th</sup> grade that students must attend.
- Please make sure you have a schedule in your binder and posted at home at all times!
- In the case of a delayed opening or closing of school – please check your email!

Miss Seward is always available through email! Please get in touch with her if you need any musical assistance along the way!

[kseward2@bcps.org](mailto:kseward2@bcps.org)

## **COMMITMENT**

- Students, once enrolled, **are expected to complete the year in band/orchestra.** This is a Pinewood policy.
- This is a class that you will receive a grade for each marking term. The grade will be on the BCPS report card.
- The curriculum for Instrumental Music has been updated and grading is slightly different than in the past. Please refer to the grading sheet in this handbook.
- Parents should stay in contact with Miss Seward if they notice a decline in academic achievement so that the problem can be addressed immediately.
- Please refer to the “Commitment” page in this handbook for specifics on “The Grace Period,” and the contract.

# Concerts



The fun of learning an instrument is performing for an audience! There will be a few evening concerts during the school year. We usually have a Winter concert and a Spring Concert at the school. There may be other performance opportunities throughout the year as well. As soon as specific dates are set for our performances, you will be notified. The winter and Spring Concert dates appear below.

- All members of the band and orchestra are required to attend and perform in these concerts.
- All members will stay for the ENTIRE concert. Everyone will be dismissed at the same time no matter when he/she performs.
- All members will follow the concert attire dress code to perform.
- Any member not following the Behavior expectations will be asked to leave the performance.

## Concert Attire

Bottoms: Dress pants/slacks, skirts (below the knee when seated), dresses (below the knee when seated)

Tops: Blouse, Dress Shirt with a collar (tucked in), dress (below the knee when seated)

Footwear: Dress shoes

**ABSOLUTELY NO JEANS OR SNEAKERS!!!!**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert: December 17, 2019 (6:30 PM)

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert: December 10, 2019 (6:30 PM)

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert: May 12, 2020 (6:30PM)

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert: May 19, 2020 (6:30 PM)

There may be additional performances as the year progresses. Parents will be notified of these changes.

# HOW CAN I STAY UP TO DATE?

Miss Seward is ALWAYS available through EMAIL:



[kseward2@bcps.org](mailto:kseward2@bcps.org)

Follow Pinewood ES Band and Orchestra on Twitter:



**@PESInstrumental**



## Schoology

You will need to click on COURSES and MY COURSES to find the appropriate SECTION

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Band/Orchestra

Music Exploratory – Grade Four  
**Section 075**



Has this icon:

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band/Orchestra

Music Instrumental – Grade 5  
**Section 076**



Has this icon:

**Join the Facebook Group!**  
(You must request to join this closed group)



***PES Instrumental Music***

Bookmark the PES Instrumental Music Webpage!

[www.pesinstrumental.weebly.com](http://www.pesinstrumental.weebly.com)

## **Music Stores in the Area**

**Menchey Music** (Services our school directly)

Broad Avenue and Padonia Road

Timonium, MD 21093

410-453-6635

### **Music and Arts Center**

1940 York RD

Timonium, MD 21093

410-453-0811

### **Music Go Round**

10112 York RD

Cockeysville, MD

410-666-3996

### **Music and Arts Center**

9210 Baltimore National Pike

Ellicott City, MD 21042

410-461-1844

### **Coffey Music**

31 E. Main Street

Westminster, MD 21157

410-876-1045

### **Bill's Music House**

743 Frederick RD

Catonsville, MD 21228

410-747-1900

# **SmartMusic Software**

There is a WONDERFUL computer program out there to help beginning through advanced Instrumental students achieve:

## **SmartMusic!**

It can be easily purchased and downloaded from:

[www.smartmusic.com](http://www.smartmusic.com)

It is quite inexpensive AND I cannot say enough about how it changes the way students practice and play music! We will use it in class, however, the REAL magic of this program is seen during at home practice time.

Students perform along with the music on the screen and the program will tell them everything that they do correctly and everything that they do incorrectly. It offers suggestions and help for the things that need work and even tracks their progress and practice time. It's like having a music tutor at home ANYTIME you need it!

Students practice smarter - not harder and achieve wonderful results! There is a great difference in the performance abilities of those students that use it and those that do not use it.

Although not required for Pinewood Band and Orchestra it is STRONGLY recommended! Your child will learn how to use it in class, so using it at home is a breeze!

Please consider this purchase!



# **COMMITMENT**

Once you have enrolled in band/orchestra, and passed the “grace period” for the 2018-2019 school year, you are expected to remain in the group, attend the lessons and rehearsals, and complete the year successfully. This is a class, that receives a grade, and every child that enrolls is expected to remain in the group and attend the lessons/rehearsals throughout the ENTIRE YEAR.

The valuable lesson of “finishing what you have started,” is an expectation for us at Pinewood. This supports our goal of making students “College and Career Ready.”

It is also the expectation that students learn and use “time management skills” to be successful. Again, this is a powerful lesson to prepare our children to be “College and Career Ready!” Work that is missed for pull out lessons is expected to be completed in a timely manner, and students and parents are required to stay in touch with both the classroom teacher and Miss Seward if they feel that there is a problem.

## **We will use an action plan to ensure success in all areas:**

1. Parents will notify Miss Seward of a “problem” immediately. (This includes lack of motivation for practice, academic concerns, etc...)
2. Miss Seward will arrange a meeting with the parent, student, and any other teacher that may be involved.
3. Parents and the student will attend the meeting to discuss strategies to help the student be successful in all areas and we will set up an “Action Plan” for that student.
4. The student, parent, and teachers will implement the “Action Plan” for no-less than a 3 week period to determine if a change has occurred.
5. The parent, student, and teachers will meet again to discuss results and further action.
6. Removing a child from Band/Orchestra will be a LAST RESORT once all other options have been explored. Mrs. Rueter or Mrs. Davis may be present for a parent/teacher conference before any child can be removed from Band/Orchestra.

### **Grace Period (New students only)**

As with anything new, we want to allow the students to get a "feel" for the band/orchestra program. This is an exciting endeavor, however, it is possible that a student may find that band/orchestra is not for him/her. Although I do not anticipate this to be the case with any student, it could be a possibility. The COMMITMENT portion of the contract will go into effect beginning on Oct. 25, 2019. Parents do not need to do anything extra UNLESS, you find that this is not a good fit for your child. In that case, you will need to contact Miss Seward via phone, email, or in person to discuss the situation by October 25, 2019 at the end of the school day. On October 26, the student will be considered “Enrolled for the Year.”

\*There is no grace period for a returning 5<sup>th</sup> Grader.

# **GRADING INFORMATION**

Once your child is enrolled in Band/Orchestra they will have a grade report for it in BCPSOne as well as on their report card.

Grading policies have changed in BCPS, and Instrumental Music will also be graded differently than in previous years. Students will be graded on what they know and have learned based on the National and Maryland Standards for music education.

## **Creating**

The following Maryland Fine Arts standards will be assessed throughout the year:

- A. 01 Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- A. 02 Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- A. 03 Refine and complete artistic work.

*\*Students will be completing a music composition project each marking term to meet this standard.*

## **Performing**

The following Maryland Fine Arts Standards will be assessed throughout the year:

- A. 04 Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation
- A. 05 Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- A. 06 Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

*\*Students will have performance assessments throughout the marking term as well as an end of marking term assessment on their new skills. Performance rubrics will be provided during the first week of lessons. This will be done as BAND KARATE – see the Band Karate information when it comes out.*

## **Responding/Connecting**

The following Maryland Fine Arts Standards will be assessed throughout the year:

- A. 07 Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- A. 08 Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- A. 09 Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

*\*Students will be completing personal reflections, as well as analyzing musical performances and professional performances.*

# Why We Teach Music

**Music is a Science:** It is exact, specific, highly organized, and must be 100% correct. It embodies many levels of physics from acoustics to architecture.

**Music is Mathematics:** It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time in space into fractions, which must be done instantaneously and not worked out on paper, in a highly specific form with regard to placement and symmetry.

**Music is Language:** It is composed of phrases, thoughts, and ideas. Its goal is to communicate, to reach a part of us where words no longer suffice. Most of the terms are a foreign language: Italian, German, or French, and the notation is certainly not English but a highly developed, and organized symbolic system.

**Music is History:** It is the only art form we can hear as people hundreds of years ago had. Unlike paint, whose image is always there once created, music is perpetually re-painted each time it is performed. The feelings and thoughts of countless generations are forever cast into sound.

**Music is Physical Education:** It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, eyes, hands, lips, cheek and facial muscles, in addition to the extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles. There are as many calories burned up by a symphony trumpet player in one performance as there are by a quarter back in a professional football game.

**Music is all of these things - and more, above all**  
**MUSIC IS ART:** It allows a human being to integrate science and technique and create EMOTION. This is the one thing that science cannot duplicate – human feelings and emotions.

**This is why we teach music:** Not because we expect to produce “music majors.” Not because we expect people to play music all their lives. Not so you can relax. Not so we can trot around a football field in a uniform.

**But:** So we will be more HUMAN. So we will recognize beauty. So we will be more sensitive, especially to all the thoughts and feelings put into sound throughout the ages. So you will be closer to the infinity of your own heart. So you will have something to cling to. So you will feel the beauty of being alive and .....

**So you will come to know the value, beauty, and power of your own self!**

**RETAIN FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS  
(TURN IN THE COLORED COPY)**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read the Band and Orchestra Handbook, and I understand what is expected of me throughout this year. I also understand that I am making a year-long commitment to the group, and I am expected to finish the year\*.*

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

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

*Daily Updates are sent via email, please complete if you are not already receiving emails:*

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_



\*As per the "Commitment" page, the grace period is the first marking term, and will end on October 25, at the end of the school day. Refer to that page for specifics, however, on October 26, 2019 students are considered fully enrolled for the year, and fully expected to finish the year successfully.

\*The grace period ONLY applies to new enrollments. Returning students (5<sup>th</sup> grade) do not have a grace period.

**TURN IN THIS CONTRACT TO MISS SEWARD BY \_\_\_\_\_, AT YOUR NEXT LESSON!**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read the Band and Orchestra Handbook, and I understand what is expected of me throughout this year. I also understand that I am making a year-long commitment to the group, and I am expected to finish the year\*.*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Daily Updates are sent via email, please complete below with the email addresses that you would like the information sent to each day.*

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE SURE THE EMAIL ADDRESSES ARE EASILY READABLE!!!!**



\*As per the "Commitment" page, the grace period is the marking term, and will end on October 25, at the end of the school day. Refer to that page for specifics, however, on October 26, 2019 students are considered fully enrolled for the year, and fully expected to finish the year successfully.

\*The grace period ONLY applies to new enrollments. Returning students (5<sup>th</sup> grade) do not have a grace period.