

Dearborn STEM Middle School

Music Handbook

2019-2020



Your Teacher: Mrs. Nichole Hartrick

EMAIL: hartrin@dearbornschools.org

BLOG: <http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/dearbornstemmusic/>

CELL PHONE: 734-646-4644

Office Phone: 313-827-4800 ext. 25322

Room: D170

OPEN DOOR POLICY: Parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to come into class and check out what we are doing. Please sign in at the front office and come on down to the music room at any time during the year. I also welcome phone calls and emails if you have any concerns or questions. I would love to hear from you.

SCHEDULE:

BAND (A DAYS) & ORCHESTRA (B DAYS)

10:46 - 11:43 am	8 th grade
12:17 - 1:14 pm	6 th grade
1:18 - 2:15 pm	7 th grade

WHAT TO EXPECT: Welcome to the Dearborn STEM Instrumental Music Program! I'm so excited to embark on this journey with you. Music is both an individual and group activity and every member is critical to our success. While hard work and daily practice is an important part of any musician's life, being in band and orchestra and is also fun. We will perform, witness professional musicians in concert, march in the annual Memorial Day Parade (orchestra = flags and drums) and much more. Students should expect to focus on instrument proficiency, music literacy and musical understanding.

WHAT YOU NEED: Students should always bring the following items with them to band and orchestra class:

- 1.) A Pencil
- 2.) Your Music Binder (students need to bring a binder. One inch is a good size but it can be bigger)
- 3.) Your music and method book (see below for method book details)
- 4.) Your instrument
- 5.) Any accessories you need for your instrument (aka reeds, valve oil, neck-strap, etc.)

PERFORMANCES: Participating in music class at STEM includes a variety of opportunities for students to perform. At times, students will be asked to play solo in front of the class. While this may be nerve-wracking for some individuals, it's a necessity of the performing arts world and for accurate student assessment. We may also perform for family and friends, community members and our peers. Students are REQUIRED to attend all performances. If for some reason a student cannot attend a concert, they must let Mrs. Hatrick know BEFORE the concert. Students who miss concerts will be asked to play the concert music for a summative grade.

GRADING:

Formative Assessment: Examples include practice homework, written work and student reflections.	20% of grade
Summative Assessment: Examples include performances, playing tests, written tests and final projects.	80% of grade

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODES:

6TH GRADE BAND: 43OYAK5	6TH GRADE ORCHESTRA: GG080
7TH GRADE BAND: E2UOMX	7TH GRADE ORCHESTRA: AOIVZYB
8TH GRADE BAND: V2XJG4z	8TH GRADE ORCHESTRA: ZDMJI5s

HOW TO GET AN A: Students will excel in band and orchestra if they ask questions, actively participate in class and practice at home on a regular basis. Remember to check google classroom for homework and add due dates to your planner to stay organized. If extra help is needed or a student is struggling with a topic, let Mrs. Hartrick know so she can help. Individual or group lessons can be offered after class, just ask. Students are graded based on demonstration of progress on instrument. Everyone learns music at a different pace and students have a variety of levels of experience. As long as students are showing growth, effort and complete their homework they will get a good grade.

LATE WORK POLICY: See STEM school late work policy to be released during the first few weeks of school.

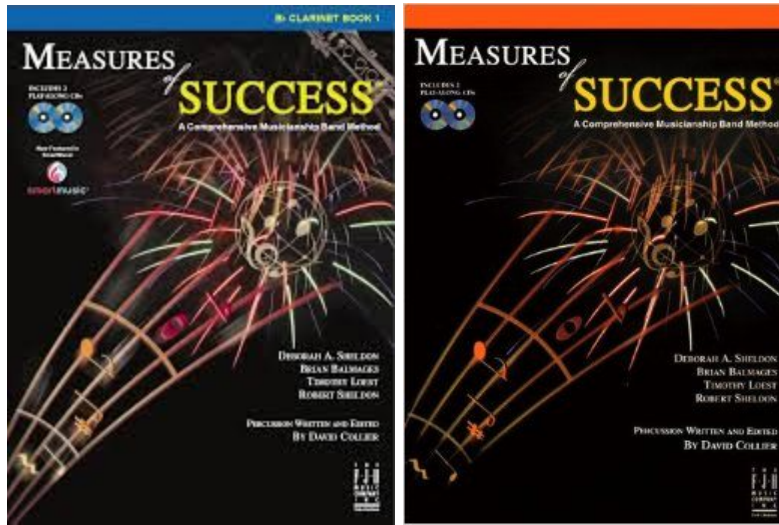
CHAIR TESTING & CHALLENGES: Students will be divided into two ensembles based on experience and music ability: a beginner group and a more advanced group. Students will complete an audition to determine which ensemble they will be assigned to. Within the ensembles students will be ranked by chair order. Students will be allowed to challenge the student in the chair above them via a blind audition throughout the school year.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD A STUDENT PRACTICE? Students should practice 15-45 minutes a day, 5 days a week. While this isn't always realistic, students will be successful on their instruments if they attempt this routine. We will discuss rehearsal techniques in class.

THE BENEFIT OF MUSIC LESSONS: The number one way a musician can increase their music skills is by signing up for individual lessons. Mrs. Hartrick is working with local high school students to arrange 30 minute lessons at STEM for a low rate of \$10. Other options include the Dearborn School of Music, Marshall Music in Allen Park and A&R Music in Lincoln Park.

METHOD BOOKS: Students in band and orchestra will be working out of a method book throughout the year. While there will be a few copies for students to use while in the classroom, students should purchase a copy for themselves to use at home while practicing. Students can buy these on amazon.com at their local music store, or may purchase through the school. Used books can be found online for only a few bucks and shipping. Mrs. H will let students know which book they should purchase. The books we will use are:

BAND - Measures of Success book #1 or #2



ORCHESTRA - Essential Elements for Strings Book 1,2 or 3



CURRICULUM: All lessons are based on state and national standards for music education in conjunction with the curriculum laid out by the Dearborn School District. See Mrs. H if you would like more information.

RENTING AND PURCHASING INSTRUMENTS: Students will be assigned a school-owned instrument if one is available. For the most part, this should not be an issue though supplies are limited. If a student is passionate about music and know they will play an instrument in high school renting or purchasing their own instrument is highly recommended.

SEVERAL MUSIC COMPANIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM WHICH WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU RENT INSTRUMENTS:

Shar (strings) Check out www.sharmusic.com for more info and locations	A&R Music (band) 3924 Fort St, Lincoln Park, MI 48146 (313) 381-2274	Marshall Music Co. (band or strings) 6500 Allen Rd Allen Park, MI (313) 383-5560
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A NOTE ON CHEAP INSTRUMENTS: Instruments found on Amazon, Costco and Walmart websites that are sold at a considerably cheaper price than those found at a reputable instrument dealer may seem appealing but are not recommended. These instruments are generally of extremely poor quality, break easily and most repair companies will not fix them once in disrepair. Investing in a quality instrument ensures your student will be able to perform for the long term. A quality instrument will retain its value over time (if taken care of) and if at some point your student is not interested in participating in band or orchestra, you can sell it and get a portion of your investment back.

A NOTE ON USED INSTRUMENTS: Used instruments are another great option. If you don't have knowledge of what brands or specific qualities you should be looking for, Mrs. Hatrick is happy to help walk you through the process. Give her a call, text or email.

REPAIR OPTIONS: If an instrument requires repair and I can fix it, I will. If not, please take your instrument to one of the local shops mentioned above, or to the store you purchased your instrument from for repair. **DO NOT** attempt to repair instruments yourself at home or in the classroom. This can cause serious damage to your instrument resulting in a large repair bill. All efforts will be made to allow students to use a school instrument during the time their instrument is in for repair. School instruments needing repair should go through our repair technician and handled through Mrs. H.

PRACTICE TIPS:

- Practice Tips
 - Practice a little every day. It is better to practice 15 minutes five times a week than to practice an hour and 15 minutes one time in the week.

- o Use a metronome. A metronome makes a click for each beat. You can use it to begin practicing a scale or passage slowly then gradually increase the speed. There are dozens of metronome apps.
 - Metronome Beats (free) works well and has a feature where you can quickly and simply add 5 beats per minute during your practice.
 - Metronome Plus (\$1.99) has been called the best metronome app.
 - o Set challenging yet attainable goals
 - o Isolate difficult passages and practice them slowly (Use your metronome)
 - o It is better to play slow and accurate than fast and sloppy
 - o Stay Positive! Not everything will be easy. In fact, if you are practicing correctly, you are intentionally practicing the music that is not easy. Go slow and play accurate. If you get frustrated, take a break and come back to it another time.
 - o Always end your practice by playing something fun that you enjoy playing.
 - o Play for others as often as possible; family, friends, dog or cat
- Blog help
 - o The Music Program at STEM has an active blog. This is the primary form of communication that I will use during the course of the school year. Students can ask questions, get practice files, check schedules and concert rehearsals, dates, attire, etc.

CONTINUING MUSIC EDUCATION IN HIGH SCHOOL:

Meet the High School Directors

- o Dearborn High School
 - Carmelle Atkins - Vocal Music, Music Theory,
 - James Walters - Instrumental Music
 - Greg Viscomi - Theatre
- o Edsel Ford High School
 - Robert Doyle - Piano, Theater, Vocal Music
 - Sarah Oren - Instrumental Music, Marching Band, Jazz Band
- o Fordson
 - Daniel Taylor - Band, Marching Band, Strings, Jazz Band
 - Matt Laura - Choir, Piano

PHOTO RELEASE: If it is your desire that your child's picture NOT be used on school blogs, information, slide shows, etc., you must fill out a "DO NOT PHOTOGRAPH" form in the office at STEM School.



Dearborn Public Schools accept a parent's assertion that he or she needs language assistance without requiring additional corroboration. For free help with understanding the content of this document, please call the Student Services office 827-3005 for translation/interpretation Assistance.

Arabic: تؤكد مدارس ديربورن على توفير خدمات الترجمة بدون أي شرط للحصول على هذه الخدمة المجانية ولتفهم هذه الإستمارة يرجى الإتصال بمكتب خدمات الطلاب على الرقم 827-3005

French: Les écoles de Dearborn vous offrent le service de traduction sans aucune condition. Si vous souhaitez avoir le service gratuit pour comprendre le contenu de ce document, prière d'appeler le bureau de Services aux Etudiants 827-3005.

Spanish: Las escuelas de Dearborn aceptan la afirmación de un padre que él o ella necesita ayuda con el idioma sin necesidad de corroboración adicional. Para obtener ayuda gratuita con la comprensión del contenido de este documento, por favor llame a la oficina de Servicios de los Estudiantes 827-3005 para recibir asistencia de traducción / interpretación.

Italian: Scuole Dearborn accettare l'affermazione di un genitore che lui o lei ha bisogno di assistenza lingua senza bisogno di ulteriori conferme. Per aiuto con la comprensione del contenuto di questo documento, si prega di chiamare l'ufficio Student Services 827-3005 per la traduzione / interpretazione di assistenza.

Albanian: Shkolla DEARBORN pranojnë pohimin e të prindërve që ai ose ajo ka nevojë për ndihmë të gjuhës pa kërkuar vërtetim shtesë. Për ndihmë lirë me kuptuar përmbajtjen e këtij dokumenti, ju lutemi telefononi zyrën e shërbimeve për studentë 827-3005 për përkthim / interpretim ndihmë.

Romanian: Scolile orasului Dearborn accepta orice declaratie parinteasca care atesta nevoia copilul de asistenta cu limba engleza fara nici o dovada suplimentara. Daca aveti nevoie sa intelegeti acest document da-ti telefon la oficiul serviciilor scolare la numarul 827-3005 pentru a primi asistenta cu translatia sau interpretarea lui.

Urdu: ڈیئر بورن اسکولوں میں والدین کا دعویٰ ہے کہ وہ با وہ اضافی تعاون کی ضرورت ہوتی ہے بغیر زبان امداد کی ضرورت ہے کہ قبول کرتے ہیں اس دستاویز کے مواد کو سمجھنے کے ساتھ مفت میں مدد کے لئے، براہ مہربانی مدد ترجمہ / تشریح کے لئے طالب علم کی خدمات کے دفتر کو کال کریں 827-3005