



# HANDBOOK FOR



# STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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Music Director



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Dear Parents,

Greetings and welcome to a brand new school year! I am delighted to be your child's music teacher and look forward to meeting you soon. This handbook explains in detail each aspect of your child's involvement within the music program at L.L. Curry Middle School.

Our music program is one of the most rewarding and exciting educational opportunities offered at our school. Music provides students with a wealth of knowledge and skills that can be transferred to other life experiences. Team work, dedication, self-discipline, creativity, leadership, and responsibility are key points stressed within the music curriculum. These qualities are among those sought out by employers today. In addition, scientific research has proven that music students are faster learners and are often better able to multi-task and use higher-order thinking skills when compared to non-music students.

I encourage you to review the handbook with your child in order to make arrangements for a successful year. If you do not play an instrument or sing, do not worry. You can help your child succeed by encouraging your child to practice without interruptions for a minimum of 30 minutes a day. Practice time must be part of his/her daily home-learning routine.

Finally, I wish to stress that communication is very important. If you need to reach me, please, email me at [pfuentes@dadeschools.net](mailto:pfuentes@dadeschools.net) or call me at (305) 222- 2775, Ext. 2015. You will receive a response within 48 hours. In turn, please return any forms, emails, or phone calls from me as soon as you can. If I contact you, it is for your child's benefit. Together we will work as a team to ensure your child's success. I look forward to meeting you soon! ☺

Musically,

Mrs. Patricia D. Fuentes  
Master of Science in Music Education  
National Board Certified Teacher

# Grading

1. **Academic Grade:** This indicates how much your child has learned. Your child's academic grade will consist of performance and written tests, classwork/ participation, and home-learning/ practice. **All students must practice everyday, therefore, no instruments should remain in the locker room at the end of every school day.** Students will be given prior notice of tests so they can prepare.

**Performances:** Your child is a member of one of our school's performing groups. Whether he or she is enrolled in Beginning or Symphonic Band, Guitar Ensemble, Chorus, or Music Appreciation, please know that your child will participate in public performances this school year. Performances count for a large portion of your child's grade. Missed performances will result in a lowered academic grade.

2. **Effort Grade:** This indicates how much responsibility your child takes for his/her own learning. Your child's effort grade will consist of paying class fees on time, bringing routine materials, books, and instrument supplies to class regularly, and having his/her instrument in class to use.

## **Yearly Class Fees:**

- Full Year Classes and clubs: \$10
- Half Year Classes: \$4

## **Routine Materials for all classes:**

- (1) Black 3-ring binder (no wider than 2 inches) with two pockets
- (20 or more) Plastic sheet protectors
- 5 dividers (labeled "Worksheets," "Musicianship," "Technique," "Warm-ups," and "Music")
- ruled paper (to write essays and/or assignments)
- (2 or more) Pencils with erasers, red and blue pens (as needed)
- (1) Yellow highlighter

## **Books (may be purchased from any music store or in the music room):**

- Band 1
  - Standard of Excellence Method Book 1
- Band 2 and 3
  - Standard of Excellence Method Book 2
- Chorus 1, 2, and 3
  - The Sight Singer Volume 1 by Audrey Snyder
- IB Music Appreciation (Half Year Course)
  - The Sight Singer Volume 1 by Audrey Snyder

**Instrument Supplies** (may be purchased from any music store or in the music room):

- Flute: cleaning rod and handkerchief OR pad saver; polishing cloth; key oil
- Clarinet/Saxophone/Oboe/Bassoon: swab OR pad saver; polishing cloth; cork grease; key oil; reed(s); neckstrap (sax only)
- Trumpet/French Horn/Trombone/Baritone Horn/Tuba: hand towel; polishing cloth; valve/slide oil; tuning slide grease
- Percussion: drum sticks (size 2B)

3. **Conduct Grade:** This indicates how your child behaves during class. The Code of Student Conduct, along with the following Music Class Rules, will be used to assess a student's conduct grade. All students start each grading period with an "A" in conduct.

**Music Class Rules:**

1. Raise your hand before you speak.
2. Follow directions the first time they are given.
3. Do not touch people and things that are not yours.
4. Be polite. No hazing or bullying.
5. Keep food, beverages, and gum out of sight. Water is acceptable.
6. Electronic devices will be used only under teacher's direction.

**Those who follow the rules** will remain with an "A" in conduct and will be rewarded with:

- fill leadership roles within the class
- recommendations to special activities and functions
- consideration for end-of-year awards and recognitions

**Those who do not follow the rules** will earn a lowered grade in conduct and will be penalized with:

- conduct cuts
- detentions
- conferences or referrals to the office

Parents will be notified accordingly. Please, refer to the "**Music Student Discipline Compact**" for specific penalties.

## Information about Band Classes

4. **Curry Cubs Band:** Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to advance in three levels of achievement: Band 1, 2, and 3. Beginning Band (Band 1) introduces instrument technique, individual musicianship, and the opportunity to work with others in a group. Symphonic Band (Band 2 and Band 3) continues building upon the goals of Band 1 while allowing students to play a variety of music, perform during school events, and attend field trips throughout the year.
5. **Band Instrument Selection:** Choosing a band instrument is not something that should be rushed or attempted haphazardly. Every student is unique.
  - **Beginning Band**
    - Students will spend two weeks reviewing how to read music notation, learning about the families of instruments, and selecting their instrument.
    - Once they make their choice, they must play their chosen instrument for one full year!
  - **Symphonic Band**
    - Symphonic Band students who wish to learn a new instrument may consider it only after speaking to his/her parents and me. It is not a decision that should be made lightly.
    - Instrument rent and supplies as well as new fingerings and clef differences should be taken into consideration.
6. **Instrument Care and Maintenance:** Instruments are delicate and often fragile things. Repairing them can often be costly. Please, note that each student is responsible for his/her own instrument.
  - **Do**
    - Place the instrument inside its proper case with the lid closed and latched when not in use.
    - Open the case while it is placed on the floor. If it's already there, it cannot fall down and break.
    - Clean and maintain the instrument free from dust, moisture (spit), and heat.
  - **Don't**
    - **Leave the instrument unattended on a chair or on the floor.**
    - **Allow anyone to hold or play your instrument without your permission. If it is damaged, you are responsible for it!**
    - **Never leave the instrument in an extreme temperature environment (hot car, cold weather, rainy porch).**
7. **Borrowing or Rent-to-own an Instrument:** Once your child has chosen his/her instrument, they must practice every day in order to achieve success. School instruments are available but limited. For this reason, some students may not be able to play their first choice of instrument.
  - If your child borrows a school instrument
    - It will be in good condition but it is not brand new.

- If the instrument is damaged or needs maintenance after it is received, the repairs must be paid by the parent.
- Selection is limited
- If your child rents-to-own an instrument from a company
  - It will be a brand new instrument.
  - Any repairs and maintenance to the instrument is under contract and will be free to the parent.
  - Selection has no limits

I highly recommend that your child rent-to-own his/her instrument from one of the local music stores. If you decide to borrow an instrument from Lamar Louise Curry Middle School, you assume the responsibility to keep the instrument undamaged.

Any repairs to damages on the instrument thereafter must be done by the student and his/her parents.

### Information about Chorus Classes

8. **Curry Singers Chorus:** Students enrolled in this class will have the opportunity to advance in three levels of achievement: Chorus 1, 2, and 3. They will learn how to sing correctly using appropriate vocal technique, how to read music notation, will be taught aspects of music history, individual musicianship, and the opportunity to work with others in a group. They will also sing a variety of music, perform during school events, and attend field trips throughout the year.
9. **Music Appreciation:** Students enrolled in this semester class will learn how to sing correctly, how to read music notation, will be taught aspects of music history, perform in a concert, and consequently grow to respect the vital role that music plays in our society.

### Parental Involvement

10. **Private Lessons:** The success of your child in music class is largely due to the importance you will place in his/her success. If you would like to consider a private instructor for your child in any instrument (piano, guitar, etc.), please know that I highly recommend it. If you need help finding a teacher in any instrument, please, contact me for further information.
11. **You are highly encouraged:** Parents are an integral part of the Music Department's mission to promote music at Curry M.S. Concerts, field trips, evaluations, the awards assembly, and the banquet always need a few extra hands in order to become a success. If you would like to be a chaperone in any of these events, please register as a parent volunteer through the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Portal. Please, visit the Parent Portal at [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) to sign up. Once you obtain a parent volunteer number, please let me know so I can count on you for field trips and special events.