

# Elizabethtown Area School District

## Bear Creek School

### Instrumental Music Handbook 2020–2021



Commit to *Excellence!*

### Our Musical Mission:

Create a safe musical space to foster  
**HARDWORKING, RESPONSIBLE, and LIFE-READY**  
musicians who can use their skills and experiences to thrive in a global  
community while remaining supporters of the music and the arts.

By committing to excellence we will create  
superior ensembles who strive for  
**SUCCESS, FOCUS, and DEDICATION.**

# Table of Contents:

Welcome!.....page  
3

Instrumental Music Objectives.....page 4

SmartMusic Information.....page 4

Instrument Lesson Procedures.....page  
5

Music Stamps/Parking Ticket.....page 6

Practice Makes Progress.....page  
7

Instrument Karate.....page 8

Instrument Repairs.....page 8

Classroom Procedures.....page  
9



# Welcome to our musical family!

Dear Instrumental Music Families,

As Bear Creek School's instrumental music faculty, we are looking forward to helping your child discover the excitement of playing an instrument and foster their love of music. Whether you are returning instrumentalist or brand new to the world of instruments, we are excited you found your way to your musical home. This experience that you get in school is unlike any other. It is one that will push you outside of your comfort zone, help you build relationships with people you may have never met, and above all, allow **you** to create beautiful music with others.

We are filled with joy to be able to take you through this journey. Although there will be times where you might struggle, and you might get frustrated, and you might even want to quit - DON'T. Instrumental music teaches you a very unique process and teaches you to **problem solve** like no other subject. The best part about our jobs is seeing the struggle, working through it, and then watching every student's eyes light up when they become successful. We promise we will be there every step of the way and help you as much as you need, but you must promise us and yourself one thing; you will NOT give up, you will **persevere** and come out on the other end, **successful & resilient!**

You are now growing into wonderful individuals, but you are also becoming busy with sports, school, and other extra-curriculars. Music is something you must keep in your life. Music has the power to bring you the greatest joy and will connect you to some of the greatest people. **You are expected to try new things, have fun, make friends, and create music.** Everything else is just logistical but YOU are the foundation of this class and YOU will make it what you want



Commit to **Excellence!**

other extra-curriculars. you must keep in your power to bring you the connect you to some **You are expected to** **fun, make friends, and** Everything else is just the foundation of this make it what you want

it to be. Remember, you always have a home and a place to go here at Bear Creek's Music Department and it is our goal to continue to build that environment for you to thrive in.

We look forward to embarking on this musical journey!

Miss Elizabeth Martin

elizabeth\_martin@etownschoools.org

717-367-0210 ext. 40235



@missmartin\_band

Mr. Justin McLaughlin

justin\_mclaughlin@etownschoools.org

717-367-0210 ext. 40153

@mclaughlin\_orch

## Instrumental Music Objectives:

-  Follow *Classroom Rehearsal/Lesson Procedures* as outlined in this handbook.
-  Meet individual responsibilities for care and preventative maintenance of a musical instrument and music.
-  Meet all performance obligations listed.
-  Demonstrate proficiency of instrumental performance in the following musical areas:
  -  Tone - demonstrate a suitable characteristic tone or sound and blend the tone with the members of the ensemble.
  -  Rhythm - demonstrate the ability to place with accurate and precise rhythms individually and with the ensemble.
  -  Intonation - demonstrate the ability to play in tune individually and with an ensemble.
  -  Technique - demonstrate the ability to control the instrument in the areas of range, endurance, dexterity, flexibility, varied key signatures, and other musical devices.
  -  Style - interpret the different types of music and respond to musical directions of phrasing, dynamics, and articulations.
-  Perform and sight-read appropriate grade level music.

## SmartMusic Information:

Students (except percussion) will be required to sign up for SmartMusic to aid them when they practice at home. These accounts are FREE with their book (up through book 1). Students will have the opportunity  to create their accounts in school

with their ChromeBook and it is expected they will use this software when practicing.  
Parents are also encouraged to sign up for SmartMusic to see what their child is practicing.

<http://smartmusic.com/login>

Band Class Code: SEE TEACHER

Orchestra Class Code: SEE TEACHER

## Instrumental Lesson Procedures

### What to Bring to Lessons:

- 🎵 Your instrument that has a clearly marked nametag
- 🎵 School Agenda
- 🎵 A one-inch binder that will hold...

🎵 Lesson book -

🎵 Woodwind/Brass Instruments: **Sound Innovations Book 1**

🎵 Battery Percussion: **The Snare Drummers Toolbox - Row-Loff**

🎵 Mallet Percussion: **A Fresh Approach To Mallets - Mark Wessels**

🎵 Strings: **Sound Innovations Book 1**

🎵 Band & Orchestra music - given by your teacher

🎵 Signed practice sheets!

### Lesson Format:

- 🎵 Lessons occur once every 6-day cycle at the same time. A calendar will be sent home with students each month saying when the lessons are.
- 🎵 It is the students responsibility to make up any work they miss while at lessons.
- 🎵 Students are permitted to store their instrument and binder in the cubby room but MUST take it home after school.

### Missed Lessons

- 🎵 Missing a lesson is equal to missing a class at school and is important students are proactive in making them up.

- 🎵 If a student is ABSENT from school - please communicate with their teacher for a makeup time.
- 🎵 If a student FORGETS - they will receive a parking ticket and are not guaranteed a makeup lesson time.
- 🎵 Too many missed lessons will result in consequences as dictated by the teacher and possibly administration.

**Be punctual, prepared, and responsible...Commit to Excellence!**

## Music Stamps Incentive Program

When students come to lessons and ensembles on time, prepared, and with a signed practice chart they have the opportunity to earn and collect stamps. Stamps can be collected and cashed in throughout the year for prizes and parties. Stamps can be cashed in for whatever the student would like but may only be cashed in during lessons.

<b>**5 Stamp Prizes**</b> Piece of candy Music Pencil	<b>**15 Stamp Prizes**</b> Candy Bar Music Highlighter/Pen
<b>**20 Stamp Prizes**</b> Music Drawstring Bag Music Water Bottle	

**\*\*25 Stamp Prize\*\***

**End of Year Party - Date tbd**

## Parking Tickets

Missing lessons, rehearsals, or getting your instrument/music will result in the student receiving a **yellow parking ticket violation**. Too many violations or a severe

infraction will result in a reflection, parent conference, disciplinary action, or removal from the ensemble. Remember the three R's and you will be just fine!

**Be respectful, responsible and ready! Commit to Excellence!**

## **Practice Makes Progress – Not Perfect!**

Success does not come from talent - success comes from hard work! Our goal as teachers is to teach you the process. Remember, superior playing comes from hard work, dedication, and passion!

Our recommendation is you practice every day you eat! By practicing every day you are allowing your brain to consume, understand, and work through the information. Practicing right before your lesson or not at all will yield little to no results and a lot of frustration! Here are some tips for you to use at home when practicing!

1. Practice EVERY DAY - it is your HOMEWORK!
2. Set a GOAL and write it down!
3. Begin with the basics - long tones and review!
4. Focus on the **TOUGH STUFF** - don't avoid it!
5. Write things down! Helpful reminders can go a long way.
6. Sloooooooow it down - slow and steady wins the race!
7. B-r-e-a-k it down into bite sized chunks.
8. **USE A METRONOME!!!**
9. Practice AWAY from your instrument!
10. **COMMIT YOURSELF TO EXCELLENCE!!**

## **Instrument Karate**

Students will work hard to earn karate belts and become the ultimate karate master during their time at Bear Creek! Instrument karate breaks down students lesson books into units and will help them perform and understand music. There are 10 belts that students can earn if they achieve the ultimate goal of the Black Belt, they will be able to begin earning Sparkly Belts with book 2. A full list of the belts and their corresponding units will be given at your child's first lesson.

## Instrument Repairs

With proper care and maintenance, instrument repairs should be minimal. However, just like a car, all instruments will need to be serviced at some time. If your child's instrument is needing repair please have them fill out a **pink repair slip** and leave the instrument in front of either Miss Martin or Mr. McLaughlin's door. If they are unable to fix it, the guardians will be informed via email or phone for a local music store.

If you are renting an instrument, basic repairs are included within your warranty.

**Central Penn Music** and **Loser's Music** service our school weekly and generally have a one-week repair time turn around.

Central Penn Music  
8 North Londonderry Square  
Palmyra, PA 17078  
1-800-545-7728  
[www.centralpenmusic.com](http://www.centralpenmusic.com)

Losers Music, Inc  
728 Cumberland St.  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
1-800-522-2600  
[www.losersmusic.com](http://www.losersmusic.com)

Other music stores that are local to Elizabethtown...

Menchey Music Service, Inc.  
1555 Manheim Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-569-8100

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT AT HOME - EVER!**

THIS WILL VOID YOUR WARRANTY AND COST MORE TO REPAIR!

PLEASE ALWAYS LET MISS MARTIN OR MR. MCLAUGHLIN KNOW WHEN A REPAIR IS  
NEEDED VIA A **PINK REPAIR SLIP!**

**Classroom Procedures:**

**Come to lessons:**

**1. *On time***

- ♪ Students who arrive late are expected to have a signed pass from a teacher.
- ♪ Students are expected to attend **all** lessons/rehearsals. **Please always ask your music teacher if work for another class needs to be made up *first*.**

**2. *With music and instrument***

- ♪ Check the board for the rehearsal schedule for the day and have everything ready to go by rehearsal start.

**3. *With a pencil in hand***

- ♪ Always be ready to write in rehearsal notes!

**4. *With a positive attitude!***

- ♪ Be ready to work, have fun, and make music together!

**Attendance:**

- ♪ Attendance is **mandatory** for all lessons if there is a conflict please let your music teacher know ASAP.
- ♪ Please come prepared with your instrument/music/binder/agenda!
- ♪ Lessons are a requirement for being in our instrumental ensembles.
- ♪ Too many unexcused absences will result in disciplinary actions such as but not limited to performing in the concerts.

**\*\*If there is a move to hybrid or virtual learning, students are expected to report to lessons via Zoom (schedules will be given)\*\***

**By signing this contract, you are committing yourself to excellence for this school year!**

As an instrumental student, I agree to the above procedures/handbook and will work to make ensemble/lessons a rewarding, enriching, and fun experience for myself and for others around me and will commit to excellence!

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

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