

SEVEN SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

2010-2011 STEEL DRUM CLASS GUIDELINES

Congratulations on your decision to become a member of the Seven Springs Middle School music program. As a member, you will learn to play a musical instrument, meet new friends, participate in fun activities and develop a greater appreciation of the arts.

To be a successful member you must make the commitment to always strive to do your best. It is important to conduct yourself with the best possible behavior, have pride, and respect others and their property. As a member, you represent yourself, the organization and the entire school. Only students that demonstrate qualities of good character will represent Seven Springs Middle School. The pleasure of performing good music for an appreciative audience is matched only by the personal satisfaction of playing for ones own enjoyment.

Students should have a great deal of fun learning about the history of steel drums and how to play these very special instruments. Throughout the year there will be many performance opportunities for this group. Calendars will be provided on a regular basis which should help with scheduling concerns. I urge you to check the music web page frequently for up to date information on all our music programs and their schedules. You can access the music web page at the following address: <ssms.pasco.k12.fl.us> then click on the music link. You can also contact me by phone in the music suite by dialing (727) 774-6843 or leave a message at the office (727) 774-6700. I generally do not answer the phone during class so please be patient. The best time to reach me by phone is before school between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. or after school between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. You can also e-mail me directly at the following address <tviking@pasco.k12.fl.us>

PRACTICE AND MUSIC PREPARATION

Practice is an integral part of learning how to play any musical instrument and steel drums is no exception. If a student is on task, most of the needed practice can be accomplished during class. However, students may want to spend extra time outside of class to learn their music. Because most students do not have steel drums at home the music suite will be available most days in the morning at 8:00 a.m. and after school until 3:30 p.m. There will also be one day per week where the music suite will be available until 5:00 p.m.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

(during, before and/or after school)

To have a truly successful steel drum ensemble it is imperative that every member attend and participate in ALL the scheduled rehearsals and performances of class. Each student will be given a calendar to help facilitate scheduling concerns. Please make every effort to not schedule appointments or out of town trips that conflict with rehearsals or performances. Water will be provided during outside rehearsals or performances at regular break intervals. It is important that students take these opportunities to hydrate. **Performances and rehearsals are considered grades and cannot be made up.** Prior notice must be made with the director if you have a situation where an absence is unavoidable. It is also important to know that if you are absent from school due to illness county guidelines state that you may NOT participate in after school activities.

GRADES

Grades are based on class participation, performance tests (both playing and written), music preparation, notebook, special projects, rehearsal and performance attendance, and following the policies and procedures of the class. Students are required to bring all the supplies needed to participate in class everyday. The nature of this class has students spending a great deal of time practicing during class so being on task makes up a large portion of their grade. Students enrolled in this class are expected to participate and perform in all the required activities of the class. This is a "co-curricular" course which means that attendance at any required activity before, during, or after school is part of a students grade.

SUPPLIES

This class has a very short student supply list. Students need to have paper and pencil each day along with a thin notebook to keep handouts. Although we will supply all musical instruments and mallets students will need to provide their own button up flower/Hawaiian type shirt.

UNIFORM/DRESS CODE

Dress Code:

It is the responsibility of each student to dress appropriately while representing the school. The steel drum class uniform/dress code is shorts and a flower/Hawaiian style collared button up shirt. Students must wear shoes that conform to school dress code. For safety reasons flip flops are not allowed. Each student is responsible for providing their own clothes.

Students dressed inappropriately will not perform.

POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

* Students will show respect at all times toward the director, parents, chaperones, school officials and other students. They will also be respectful of school property, and the property of others. Disruptive, irresponsible or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.

* Gum, candy, food or drinks are **NOT** allowed in the music suite, on busses, during rehearsals or performances without director permission.

* Gum chewing, smoking or use of tobacco products is prohibited by anyone entering the SSMS campus. This policy also applies to anyone representing SSMS during off campus activities.

* Plan to ride the bus when it is provided for scheduled activities. **Prior arrangements MUST be made with the director** if a parent plans to transport a student to or from an activity where bus transportation is provided. This policy assures the safety and accountability of all students.

* Always be on time! Every effort will be made to start and end rehearsals or performances on time. Please be on time when picking up your child. You are always welcome at any rehearsal and most performances. The ending times for some performances such as parades are difficult to estimate. Lets work together on this issue.

* For obvious safety reasons, inappropriate language, running or horseplay type behavior will not be tolerated in the music suite or while representing Seven Springs Middle School.

NORMAL DISCIPLINE POLICY

1. a student reminder
2. time-out from the activity and deduction in participation points
3. a parent conference, note home, telephone call, etc.)
4. exclusion from performance or activity
5. discipline referral, detention, removal from activity or class

* Severe discipline issues will result in a direct administrative referral

I encourage all parents to get involved in their child's musical exploration. Many of you probably sang or played an instrument while you were in school. If so, you know that the time spent studying music was one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It can be equally rewarding for your child. All it takes is commitment and a love for music.

I have read and understand the information included in the Steel Drum Class Guidelines.

Date: _____ Period: _____

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____