



Instrumental Music Handbook 2020-2021

The CMS Instrumental program stresses the creative and artistic values of music through the performance of quality literature that combines techniques, historical and cultural significance and aesthetic values. There is a place for anyone who wishes to learn and pursue excellence!

The purpose of the Cresthill MS Instrumental Program is to help students:

1. Develop skills in playing a musical instrument
2. Develop music reading skills
3. Understand music theory and history
4. Enjoy playing and listening to music

Classroom Procedures and Guidelines

1. Students are expected to be in their seats with instruments, music and supplies ready for rehearsal by approximately 3 minutes after the beginning of the period. Students are considered “tardy” if they are not in their seats ready for instruction.
2. There can be no food, gum, candy or drinks (except water) in class.
3. Students should take care of bathroom needs before and after class.
4. Student behavior should not interfere with my ability to teach or any student’s ability to learn.
5. Instruments and equipment are to be treated with respect. This includes chairs, stands, and music. Fines will be assessed for repair or replacement of damaged property.
6. If a student does not have an instrument during rehearsal, they will not receive daily participation points.

Concerts

Each ensemble will perform several concerts each year. **All performances are required**. The only exceptions are extreme illness or family emergencies. All other conflicts should be communicated no less than one week prior to the performance and will be determined to be excused or unexcused at the discretion of the director.

Make-up work for excused absences will be offered for full credit. Make-up assignments are due within one week of the concert.

Concert Attire

Orchestra - “NINJA” Wear!! That is to say, please wear all **black**. Nice black pants/slacks, “fancy” black top, or button down t-shirt, black shoes!

Band - “Concert Black” - White Button Down/Fancy White Top, **Black** pants/slacks and black shoes.

Concert Dates

TBA

Instrument Guidelines and Maintenance

We have very good equipment available at CMS. We are very proud to provide our students with equipment that will enhance their performance and allow them to progress. Please be meticulous in your use of all school owned equipment. Report any problems with instruments and equipment to Mr. Hutchins.

Instruments may be rented from the school. Rental is \$100.00 per year. You will be billed through your Infinite Campus account. School owned instruments will be issued on the basis of need, and student interest. Students

receiving school instruments assume all responsibility for the care and handling of the instrument, and will be charged for the cost of repairs or replacement. See Mr. Hutchins if you need to rent a school instrument.

Lockers

Students will be assigned a locker to store his/her instruments. You must provide your own combination lock. Do not store food, or drink in your lockers. We reserve the right to inspect lockers at any time.

Required Materials - Orchestra

1. Strings – Each student **must** have a complete set of replacement strings. Strings break at inconvenient times. Please purchase “Dominant” brand strings. They have a better sound than cheaper brands.
2. Metronome/Tuner - These can be downloaded for free or cheap (<\$5!!!) on your smart phone. I recommend “Tonal Energy.”
3. Mute – Mutes for string instruments are available from music vendors in the Denver area.
4. Shoulder rest (for violins & violas) – **ALL VIOLINISTS AND VIOLISTS MUST HAVE A SHOULDER REST**. Students cannot tune their own instruments or develop a good playing posture without one. There are many shoulder rests on the market and most of them are good. A popular brand is the “Kun” shoulder rest.
5. Cello/Bass stop – Anytime cellists play on a surface other than carpeting they will need an end pin stop. Without a cello stop the instrument will slide around and can’t be played properly. These are available at all string music dealers.
6. Rosin – Every string player must have his/her own rosin and use it often. Rosin should be used twice a week or more depending on how much a bow is used. It is available through all string music vendors beginning at \$3.50.

Required Materials - Band

7. Metronome/Tuner - These can be downloaded for free or cheap (<\$5!!!) on your smart phone. I recommend “Tonal Energy.”
8. Mute – Mutes for brass instruments are optional, but useful to own. Available from music vendors in the Denver area. Preferred mute is “straight mute.”
9. Reeds - All woodwinds on reed instruments should have at least 2 back-up reeds available in their case. It is recommended they keep several at home as well. For reed recommendations, see Mr. Hutchins.
10. Sticks/Mallets - Percussionists should own their own set of snare drum sticks, soft yarn mallets, and hard rubber mallets.
11. Valve Grease/Oil - Brass players should have the appropriate valve oil or cork grease available in their case.

Grading

Grading for instrumental music is based on participation, assignments and performances. All grades will be entered on the DCSD Content Knowledge and Work Habits scale (1-8).

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

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Cell: (719) 659-7452 (Emergencies only!)