

**Scranton Public School  
K-6 Music Handbook  
2023-24**

Mrs. Jennifer Conlon  
SPS K-12 Music Teacher  
Jennifer.m.conlon@k12.nd.us  
School Phone: 701-275-8266

### **Music Class Goals and Objectives**

In music classes, students will have the opportunity to:

- Be exposed to a variety of music from classical, cultural, and popular styles
- Learn proper singing technique
- Understand and be able to demonstrate and/or recognize different elements of music such as tempo, styles, and dynamics
- Express themselves through musical performance, creativity, and composition
- Work with others as a part of an ensemble to create and perform music
- Learn about the history of various styles and genres of music as well as the composers of various time periods
- Develop an appreciation of music in all its forms

### **Classroom Rules and Expectations**

In order to make the most out of our class time together, there are some rules and expectations that I have of my students to make class time run smoothly and efficiently.

- Respect for:
  - Teacher, Classmates, Materials & Equipment, Classroom
- Listen carefully and quietly when Mrs. Conlon is talking
- Wait for permission to touch and play instruments or use materials
- Participate in activities in a safe and respectful manner
- Do your best and have fun!

If at any point, there are problems with the classroom rules or student behavior, students may lose daily participation points from their grade and/or be sent back to their classroom or the office. Parents will be notified as necessary, if the student's behavior deems it appropriate. As always, feel free to contact me about any concerns you may have.

### **Concert & Performance Procedures**

#### **Attire**

Typical concert attire for elementary concerts will be nice dress clothes. These can include dresses, skirts, or dress pants. Tops should be nice dress tops, preferably with no large logos on them. No spaghetti straps.

Some elementary programs may require the use of costumes. If a costume is needed, it may either be provided by the school or the student may be in charge of acquiring it themselves. I will send a notice of things needed weeks in advance to ensure that there is enough time to acquire it or to make other arrangements as needed. If there are any questions regarding concert attire, feel free to contact me.

### **Concert Etiquette**

Students will be expected to behave appropriately when they attend concerts and performances, both as performers and as audience members. We will discuss proper concert etiquette in class, so students should be able to conduct themselves accordingly. Typically, I will be in front of an ensemble directing, so I expect that students can hold themselves accountable for their own behavior when not on stage. I encourage parents to lead by example and hold their students accountable as well.

Some friendly reminders:

- Please stay for the entirety of the concert. It is important to support fellow musicians and ensembles other than our own. Seeing other people perform also helps in developing our own musical growth!
- Remain quiet and refrain from talking during songs.
- Wait to enter or exit the performance space until the song is over.
- Applaud and show your support for all of our young musicians after their performance.

### **Concert & Performance Dates**

**Elementary Christmas Concert: Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**

**Elementary Spring Concert: Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**

Please refer to the school calendar located on the school website (<https://www.scranton.k12.nd.us/>) for all concert and event updates. I will also post updates and announcements for concerts and events on the music department facebook page. Be sure to give us a follow! Scranton Music Department on facebook. We look forward to being able to share our music with you this year!

\*Call time for concerts will typically be 15-20 minutes before the performance starts, unless otherwise stated by me. You will be notified of any changes in a timely manner.

\*\*\*If for some reason, your child is not able to attend one of these performance dates, you **must** let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Students receive grades for these performances, so I need time to prepare an alternative assignment for your child. Unexcused absences from concerts will result in loss of points.

## Grading

Grades will be based on accumulated points throughout the year. These points include:

**Participation/Behavior points: 5 pts per day**

**Formative Assessments (worksheets, quizzes, etc.): Dependent on the assignment**

**Performance Points: 50 pts per concert/performance**

**\*\*There may be small playing tests for older grades such as 4th grade recorders or 5th and 6th grade band. These will be based on a 5 pt rubric.**

**\*The following portion of the handbook applies to grades 4-6 only.\***

With 4th grade starting their recorder unit, and 5th and 6th grade in the beginning band stages, I wanted to take a moment to discuss some expectations and responsibilities that come with this. Being good at anything takes time, effort, and practice. I urge you to encourage your child to practice their instrument outside of school. This will benefit immensely in the musical growth that they see, and it will also help the short time that we have in class together to go much more smoothly and efficiently. I will do my part to encourage them to work outside of the classroom, and I hope that you will do the same. Don't be afraid to ask your child to take out their instrument at home and play for you! (Even if it is the dreaded recorder :-P Come on, they're not that bad!) They should be proud to show you what they have been working on! I very much appreciate your help in holding your child accountable for their progress. As I stated in my grading policy, I will have small playing tests throughout the year on students' instruments. These playing tests are not meant to be scary or intimidating. I simply want to see how each student is progressing, and see if there's anything I can do to help them improve. Outside of school practice will make these playing tests much easier and much less scary. If the student has put in the practice time, it will show. Thanks again for your cooperation in this. I look forward to being on this musical journey with my students!

Parents, please read through this document in its entirety WITH your musicians and make sure that you both understand the expectations. If you have **ANY** questions regarding the handbook or otherwise, do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to making music with your students again!

-Mrs. Conlon