



2016-2017

# Middle School General Music

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## Welcome to General Music!

Welcome back, and get ready for an exciting year in general music! A lot of new material has been planned for this year, and each grade level will be focusing on different areas in the world of music.

## Expectations

- Students are expected to observe all school rules during class.
- Students are asked to consider the following before speaking/acting: Is it safe? Is it respectful? Is it responsible? If the answer to any of those questions is no, then do not do or say it!
- Students are expected to come to class prepared, ready to work and learn from bell to bell.
- Students are expected to be respectful of other people and things.
- Students are expected to participate *fully* and *positively* in all class activities.
- Students are expected to come to class on time. If you are going to be late, bring a pass and sign in at the piano.
- iPads will be used frequently in class. Personal electronic devices are not to be used during class unless specific permission is granted related to a class activity. Please see the next page for the "Electronic Device Policy."

## Curriculum

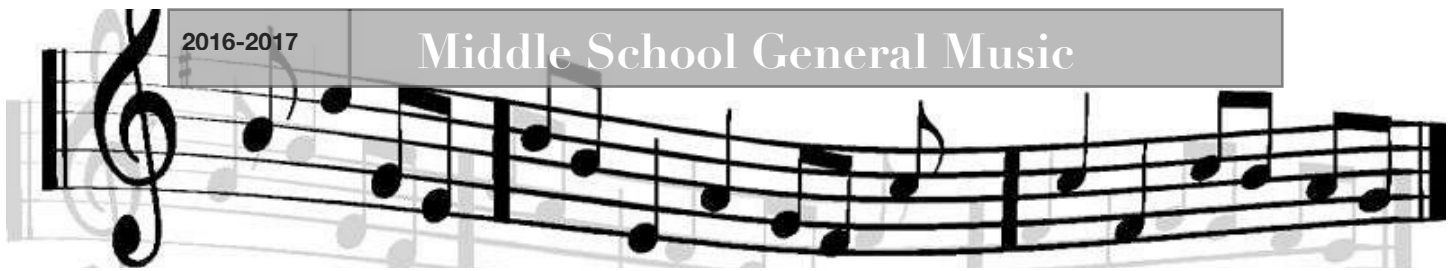
Curriculum for general music classes is based on the *National Standards for Music Education*, along with the New York State Arts Education Standards.

## Topics to be studied (subject to change):

- Music History: Composers and time periods
- Learning to read, improvise, and compose music
- Playing instruments: boomwhackers, hand chimes, recorder, ukulele, bucket drums, possibly more!
- World Music: Native American, African, Celtic, Latin American
- American Music: National Anthem, Slave Songs, Civil War music, Folk music/dance, Broadway, Jazz, Early Rock
- Music Appreciation: listening to and describing music through writing
- Music Technology: composing with music notation apps, sound recording, GarageBand
- \*Note: 6th Grade General Music will be an introduction to several of these topics, but due to time constraints, the focus will be on learning to read music and play classroom instruments. 7th Grade General Music will expand on those areas and include a more in-depth look at many of the listed topics.

## Grading

Grades in general music are based on active and positive participation, completion of class work, brief quizzes, and listening journals. As you can see from the above list of topics, General Music is a hands-on, interactive class. Therefore, it is important that students are participating fully, actively, and appropriately, as this is a large part of their grade.



**Electronic Device Policy** - Directly from the teacher and student handbooks:

Regarding Students Using Electronic Devices...

- *From the Teacher Handbook* - “**Any unauthorized use** of an electronic device will make that device **subject to confiscation**. The parent will then be asked to come and pick up the device.”
- *From the Student Handbook* - “Student use of personal technology during instructional periods is **limited and will be granted at the discretion of the classroom teacher**... Students will follow teacher directions... Students must comply with all teacher and administrator requests related to the use of the personal device. **If a student uses his/her personal device outside of the approved usage as designated by the teacher or staff during class time, the student will receive disciplinary consequences...**”
- What this means when you enter Mrs. Beichner’s class (chorus room or auditorium):
  - 1. If you are carrying a personal electronic device, it must be in your pocket, backpack, purse, or other similar location (**out of sight**).
  - 2. Personal electronic devices should be either **off** or in **silent/airplane mode** so it doesn’t interfere with class.
  - 3. If a personal electronic device is in “silent” mode, **it should not ring, light-up, or vibrate** with notifications. You can check them after class.
  - 4. Personal electronic devices may only be used when permission has been given **prior to the start of that particular class period**. **Permission granted one day does not mean permission is granted the next.**
- Failure to comply with the above stated rules will result in disciplinary consequences as outlined:
  - **1st Violation** - Verbal reminder and the device must be put away immediately (ie. no “just let me finish this text.” If it is not put away immediately, this will be considered an immediate second violation).
  - **2nd Violation** - Device confiscated for the remainder of the class period.
  - **3rd Violation** - Device confiscated for the remainder of the day (to be picked up after the 8th period bell).
  - **4th Violation and any violations thereafter** - Device confiscated, given to the principal, and the parent/guardian must come to the school and pick up the device.
  - If a student refuses to surrender their device when asked, they will be sent to the office and a discipline referral will be submitted to the principal.

### **Bucket Drumming Unit**

Students have the option of using a drum from the class set or purchasing their own to keep. Please check an option on the following page. If you would like to purchase your own materials, please have your child bring the supplies in by October 1st. We will assemble the drums together in class. They will need:

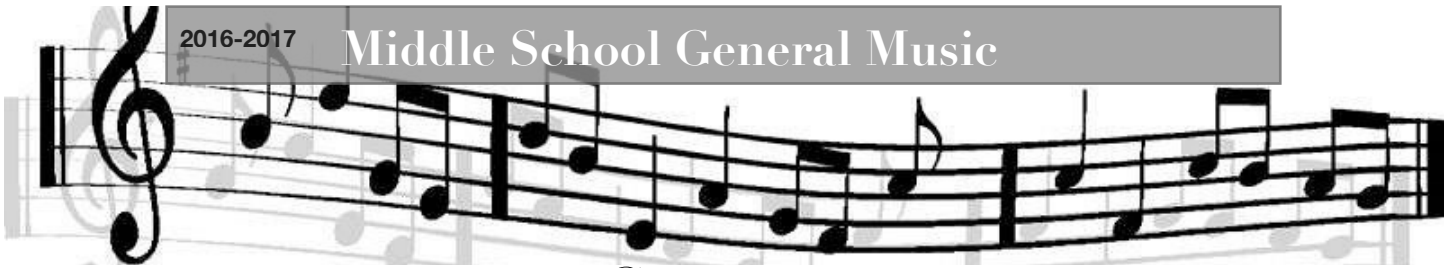
**One 5 gallon bucket** (Approx. \$3.00 at Walmart)

**One 3/8 inch wooden dowel rod** (Approx. \$1.00 at Walmart or a Craft Store)

**One roll of duct tape** [colors/patterns highly encouraged!]  
(\$2.00-\$5.00, Michael’s had patterned Duct Tape on Clearance for \$1.99 recently)

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## Contract

We, the parent/guardian and the student involved, have read and understand the classroom expectations and grading policies set forth in the 2016-2017 Middle School General Music Syllabus.

**\*\*Return by Friday, September 16th\*\***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: 6th 7th-1 7th-2 7th-3

Student Seat Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### BUCKET DRUMMING OPTIONS

THERE WILL BE A CLASS SET OF DRUMS, BUT AS BUCKET DRUMMING IS REALLY FUN, SOME STUDENTS MAY WISH TO HAVE THEIR OWN DRUM TO PERSONALIZE AND KEEP. PLEASE CHECK AN OPTION BELOW.

\_\_\_\_\_ ALTHOUGH I KNOW MY CHILD IS A BUDDING RINGO STARR, I WOULD PREFER THAT HE/SHE ONLY PLAY THE BUCKET DRUM AT SCHOOL.

\_\_\_\_\_ YES! I CANNOT WAIT TO FILL MY HOUSE WITH THE SWEET SOUNDS OF JUNKYARD PERCUSSION!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE YOUR OWN MATERIALS, PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING THE SUPPLIES IN BY OCTOBER 1ST. (THE MATERIALS LIST IS ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE.)