



West Chester Area School District
Department of Instrumental Music



Second-Year Band Students
Percussion Instrument Course Expectations

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome back to the program!! We hope you have been practicing your instrument during the summer, and are ready to learn! This year more is expected of you, because you are now an experienced musician. You will have the opportunity to play in the Winter and Spring concerts, audition for sixth-grade band, and you may be selected for one of the District Honors Bands!! Please read the following list of expectations for second-year students:

- 1) **PRACTICE YOUR INSTRUMENT!!** Nothing is more Important to your success than the amount of time you spend practicing. We expect TWO to THREE HOURS a WEEK of practicing. Try to schedule a certain time each day for practicing. Students expected to learn at least on or two new pages in their lesson book each week. It may take more than two hours of practice in a week to learn that much music.
- 2) **BE PREPARED FOR YOUR LESSON!!!** In addition to learning the songs and pages in the lesson book that are assigned, each student needs to be on time for his or her lesson, with instrument and book. Some students may need help remembering their instruments on lesson day. Because there is only one lesson each week, each lesson is very important.
- 3) **LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT -** We will start by reviewing some of the exercises and concepts that we learned last year. Once we finish our review, students will be expected to master at least one new page in the Roy Burns book each week, as well as review any other pages that still need work. By January, students should be at least to page 23 in the Roy Burns book. and should be able to perform the following rudiments: flams, single paradiddles, and nine-stroke rolls. In February, students will audition to be selected for sixth-grade band. Also, some of the more advanced students will have the opportunity to be in the Honors Band. By the end of fifth grade, second-year students are expected to be past page 30 in the Roy Burns book and to learn more rudiments, including ruffs (flam drags) and various rolls.
- 4) **EVALUATION -** Twice each year, usually in December and in May, students will receive a Band Progress Report. Students are graded on their Attendance, Behavior, Preparedness, Sticking, Rhythm-Reading, and Hand Position. One copy of the report card needs to be signed and returned.

On the other side of this paper is a message to parents or guardians, which tells you things that you can do that will help your child, and things that you should NOT do. Please take the time to read those suggestions carefully, because the support of a parent or guardian goes a long way towards helping a student become successful on an instrument.

Below please find a space for the student's signature and a space for the parent or guardian to sign, indicating that they have read and understand what is expected of them. Thank you for your interest in the band program. I am looking forward to a productive year.

Sincerely,

Band Director

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature