

STARS Foundation

Student Handbook – Music

Thank you for choosing the STARS Foundation, your educational institution for the fine arts.

Philosophy and Mission

- To nurture the artistic spirit in each individual and foster a lifelong love of music and learning through a wide varied repertoire.
- To help each student achieve his or her highest musical potential through performance, technique, theory, sight-reading, music history, composition, ear training, and memorization.
- To have fun while learning!

The study of a musical instrument fosters a lifelong skill plus the appreciation and understanding of music. In addition to the joy that comes with progress on one's instrument is the added benefit of intellectual and creative growth, self-discipline, poise, and confidence.

The goal of the instructor is to inspire students to love music and to develop their potential through the study of primarily classical music (as well as other styles), technique, theory, sight-reading, ear-training, memorization, and performance. Playing by ear, composing, ensemble playing, and accompanying are also encouraged.

Mrs. Peterson's teaching style reflects her experience as a performer. She is able to share with her students the path to polished playing for efficient learning based on real life experience. She encourages them to share their polished music with family and friends, at retirement homes, for competitions or festivals, or for recitals.

The partnership between the student, parents, and teacher is essential for success. Our instructors are committed to the student's musical growth and look forward to sharing with the student the gift that lasts a lifetime.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lessons and classes. Please call before class if your child will be absent. Students should arrive early enough to be prepared for their lessons and classes. Lessons and classes will start and end on time due to the very tight schedule that has been set. Students arriving more than 5 minutes late without notifying STARS will be marked as absent. If more than three classes are missed (other than excused illness), students will not be permitted to continue and will be excused from the program. Snow days or cancelled classes are not included.

The student is required to participate in the end of semester recital and concert that occurs the first weekend in December and the first weekend in May. Please mark your calendars!

Classroom Etiquette.

Students are expected to respect their instructors and fellow students at all times. Students who repeatedly disrupt class will be asked to sit out. No gum chewing is allowed. No food or drinks other than water are permitted in the building. Please help us keep the studio clean by reminding children to clean up after themselves.

Parental Responsibilities

- Check the STARS Blog regularly. This is the primary means of communication between STARS and parents/students. Visit www.thestarsfoundation.blogspot.com.
- Encourage progress! Please check your child's notebook for practicing goals and pertinent information.
- Set aside time to help your child develop good practicing habits and self-discipline. Be sure that they practice DAILY. Quality practice is more important than the quantity of practice.
- Communicate with the instructor if there are any concerns.
- Please drop off and pick up your child promptly. The schedule is very tight and STARS wants to conduct effective lessons and classes.
- You are responsible for any damages to instruments in your rental possession or studio possession. You will be billed accordingly.

Student Responsibilities

- The student agrees to arrive at each lesson on time, well prepared, and with all necessary materials including notebooks. If you arrive five minutes late, your lesson is five minutes shorter. You reserve the time slot, not the number of minutes.
- Practice your lesson material EVERY DAY. A minimum of five days per week is expected.
- Students will, on occasion, be tested to see if they are learning and understanding the material they have been taught. This not only helps the student see their progress, but helps the instructor recognize the student's needs. They must perform at an 80% level to participate in the orchestra. This is meant to encourage, not discourage.

Missed Lessons

NO refunds or credits will be given for missed lessons. Make-up lessons are only offered for illness, and students must give notification at least eight hours in advance. Please do not bring your child if he or she is running a fever or showing symptoms of contagious illness.

Please do not request to alter the schedule to accommodate extracurricular activities. In the unusual event a lesson is cancelled, the instructor will gladly reschedule a make-up lesson at the earliest possible time.

Parking

Parents may park in Mrs. Peterson's driveway or along the street directly in front of her house. Please DO NOT use any of her neighbors' driveways for any reason and DO NOT park in front of any of her neighbors' houses.

At the STARS building, be sure you park on the east and west sides of the building because you are there for a long time and we do not want to congest the parking on Main Street for other businesses and store owners. Thank you.