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# Rock Band Handbook

## Carnegie School Rock Band

Principal: Mrs. D. Pollard | Asst. Principal: Mrs. J. Stem | Director: Ms. S. Buksa

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## Contact Information

If you have any questions you may contact me by email at [skbuksa@cps.edu](mailto:skbuksa@cps.edu). Rock Band information will also be posted on the Carnegie Music Blog at <http://homenote.weebly.com>.

Students, thank you for choosing to be part of the Carnegie Rock Band! Parents and guardians, thank you for allowing your children to take part in this musical experience. I look forward to a successful and musical year.

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## Goals of Rock Band

The purpose of the Carnegie Rock Band is to provide students with a musically and socially enhancing experience. Students will learn open chords, power chords, movable chords, single note (melody) playing, accompaniment techniques, and a variety of playing techniques and styles, including both pickstyle and fingerstyle approaches to the guitar. The course also includes music fundamentals, theory, songs, performances, listening, improvising, and learning to read standard music notation as well as tablature. Socially, students will have opportunities to build stronger friendships with peers and also experience community outreach.

## Attendance and Behavior Policy

### **Participation in Rock Band is a privilege.**

Rock Band members at Carnegie Elementary are ambassadors for and representatives of the school. Therefore, we have high expectations of student participation, attendance, and behavior.

The Carnegie Rock Band will operate on a “Three Strikes” system. Should your child receive three strikes at any point in the school year, he or she will be removed from the chorus.

Listed below are examples of instances in which a student would receive a strike:

- Absence from chorus rehearsal
- Two tardy arrivals to rehearsal (equals one strike)
- Inappropriate behavior during a rehearsal, performance, or school day (including referrals or other behavior problems noted by teachers or administrators)

Three missed rehearsals (three strikes) results in removal from Rock Band. Attendance will start with a “clean slate” in January. Ultimately, members can miss four rehearsals throughout the year (two in the fall and two in the winter / spring).

## Rock Band Performance Attire

For all performances, students will wear “concert blacks.” Concert blacks consist of: a black dress shirt with collar, black pants or slacks, and black shoes. Black jeans are NOT acceptable. Please no skirts or dresses as we often sit to play instruments. If students need help obtaining these items, please contact the choir director.

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## Instrument Use and Care

The instrument used in this class is a nylon string acoustic guitar. All techniques learned on this instrument can be applied on any type of guitar (acoustic or electric). All students will be able to use a school-owned instrument during class; **the parent and student will be personally responsible for any damage to an instrument while in the student's care.** Each student will be assigned a guitar for the year. Each guitar is inspected by both the teacher and the student at the time of assigning and all preexisting damage (including superficial flaws) is documented. Each guitar is checked at least 5 times per school year by the instructor for new damage. It is the student's responsibility to report damage as soon as it is discovered. This guitar is for classroom use only and may not be taken home by a student.

Detuning a guitar is prohibited. This refers to D-tuning, G-tuning, etc. This can also refer to randomly turning pegs as a joke. This causes excessive wear on the strings, affecting both the lifespan and intonation. In extreme cases, strings can break. Because the entire set of strings must be replaced when one string either breaks or loses its intonation, students caught detuning a guitar will be required to buy Carnegie a new set of nylon strings or pay the equivalent amount (\$8).

## Rehearsal & Performance Schedule

Rehearsals will begin the week of September 19th, 2016. Students will rehearse every Tuesday from 3:45pm - 5:00pm.

Many of our performance dates have not been scheduled yet. Please find the anticipated performances below. Additional performance opportunities may arise throughout the year. I will inform you of those dates and times as soon as possible.

ACS Holiday Assembly	December 2016
Black History Month Assembly	February 2017
Spring Music Concert	May 2017

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## 2016-2017 Carnegie Rock Band Contract

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I am very pleased that you have decided to participate in the Carnegie Rock Band for the 2016-17 school year. In chorus we will experience the fun and joy in music through singing. Along with developing the singing voice, chorus members will develop increased self-confidence, self-discipline, and skills necessary for teamwork.

Participation in chorus is a privilege that requires discipline, commitment, and responsibility. Please review the following guidelines together then sign and return this sheet to the director.

-We understand that rehearsals are important and that chorus members are expected to attend all rehearsals and to arrive promptly by 3:45 PM each rehearsal.

-We understand that three absences (strikes) from October 12-December 14 or three absences (strikes) from January 9-May 24 will result in removal from Rock Band.

-We understand that three "strikes" results in removal from Rock Band.

-We understand that the privilege of being in Rock band requires the members to be positive ambassadors of Carnegie Elementary. This means chorus members will maintain good behavior and academic standing in Rock Band and the school and local communities. Inappropriate school behavior and attendance can lead to "strikes" in Rock Band.

-We understand that school-owned guitars will be used in the classroom, and that the parent and student will be personally responsible for the cost to repair or replace any guitar or other classroom equipment that is damaged while being used/misused by the student.

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We agree to the above listed statements and understand the "strikes" system and our responsibility of commitment to the chorus. Please sign and return by Friday, September 16.

Chorus Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Chorus Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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