

Polaris Christian Academy

General Music and Choral Handbook

2011-2012

Mrs. Susan Stetz
Music Teacher

Polaris Christian Academy
Lewis Center, OH 43035

Welcome Letter

Dear Students and Parents,

I want to welcome you to another year at Polaris Christian Academy. I look forward to teaching another year filled with fun and quality music. This handbook will outline what the students are to expect during this coming year. If you have any questions during the year feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with you this coming year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan Stetz

About the Director

My name is Mrs. Susan Stetz, and this is my fourth year at Polaris Christian Academy. I graduated from Capital University with a Bachelor of Music Education, with an emphasis in vocal music. After spending nine months in Keszthely, Hungary, I also received a diploma from the Zoltán Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music.

My husband Fred Stetz is the 4th and 5th grade science, social studies, and math teacher here at Polaris. We live in the Powell area and attend Linworth Road Church. Fred and I have a son, Seth, who is going to be a first grader here at PCA. We also have a new baby girl, Eliana, who is only two months old. I am very much looking forward to another year of working with your students here at Polaris Christian Academy.

Philosophy of Music

- I believe all students should be given a comprehensive, sequential and high quality program of music education.
- I believe each student should be given the opportunity to learn at his/her own individual ability.
- I believe that all students should be praised for what they have accomplished no matter how small or large their accomplishment.
- I believe that all students should be given the opportunity to play instruments, move to music, and sing to help them develop their musical skill.
- I believe that music is an important part of every child's educational experience.

Musical Concepts and Skill Goals

Kindergarten through Second Grade – will develop their voices, play non-pitched and pitched musical instruments, and learn about dynamics, tempo, beat, rhythm, and melody. We will learn through singing, listening, playing instruments, movement and playing games.

Third Grade through Fifth Grade – will continue to work to develop their voices, play pitched instruments, and learn about advanced musical concepts. These grades will begin to learn about the early music periods (like the Baroque and Classical periods). Students will continue to learn through singing, listening, playing instruments, movement and playing games.

*Fifth graders get the opportunity to be in band and the school's spring musical.

*All students K-5 will participate in the Christmas program which will be December 16, 2011. While making plans please remember that all performances at PCA are **mandatory attendance**.*

Middle School – have the opportunity to be in the middle school band, vocal ensemble, and the spring musical.

Expectations and Grading

Students are given the opportunity to receive 10 points per day by making good choices and actively participating in music class. The rubric for the points is as follows:

- 10/10 – This student does what is expected for class. This student brings a positive attitude to class on a daily basis, is always meeting classroom expectations, is kind to classmates, is courteous to adults and stays focused at all times.
- 9/10 – This student does what is expected in class most of the time, but is inconsistent. At times this student will be focused while other times this student will make bad choices or be talking.
- 8/10 – This student understands what is expected, but does not consistently make good choices. This student may hinder learning because of talking or a poor attitude. This student can show a lack of kindness to fellow students and can be disrespectful to adults.
- Below 7/10 – This student needs to make better choices so as to make music class an enjoyable and productive class for all involved.

The student's grade will be determined by the above rubric as well as the following assessments:

- Participation and effort in the music class (rubric)
- Assignments, worksheets, class activities, and quizzes
- Concert Attendance

Daily Classroom Guidelines

- Bring a positive attitude to class! Negative comments and attitudes are not acceptable in music class.
- Be attentive to the teacher – Watch and listen for directions!
- Show respect for other students, classroom music and equipment, and to adults at all times.
- **No gum** will be allowed in the classroom.

Discipline Policy

My discipline policy is based primarily upon incentives for the elementary classes.

Star Classes: each class has the opportunity to earn a star for the day. Once ten stars are earned the class has a free day, which consists of music songs and games that they choose.

Star Student: each student has the opportunity to earn a star for the day. At the end of the nine weeks they will be able to choose their reward, depending on the number of stars earned.

Students who are making bad choices in music class are making learning difficult for other students. These students will not earn their star and I will work closely with each classroom teacher and follow their discipline procedure. This helps to keep things consistent between a child's teachers. I expect every student to treat the other students, adults, and the materials with respect. Not doing so within the class period will result in the following:

- First time - is a warning.
- Second time – the student's name will go on the board and be given to the classroom teacher; this may result in the classroom teacher enforcing discipline.
- Third time – a check will go on the board after the student's name and the name will be given to the classroom teacher for a second degree consequence.
- Fourth time – the student will be sent to the principal's office for the rest of music class.
- Fifth time - the student will be sent to the principal's office, and the parents will be contacted for a conference with the principal, the music teacher, and the student.
- All students in middle school – will be written-up for each offense. After two warnings and two marks the student will be assigned a detention.

Absences

Students should not miss class, but if they do, the school handbook will be the guide for missed days at school. Music, as a class, is working towards a goal of performing all that has been learned. If a student misses a performance it is like missing a final exam. **Performances are mandatory. Missing a performance will be reflected in the student's music grade.** If a student cannot attend a performance and it is an **excused** absence that student will do an alternative written/oral assignment for a grade.

Concert Attire

Elementary

- Boys – uniform pants, nice button-up shirts with collars or uniform shirt
- Girls – nice dresses or skirts and blouses, no-heeled shoes are preferred

Middle School

- Boys – black pants, nice button-up white shirts with collars, tie, dark socks and shoes
- Girls – nice dresses or skirts and blouses, no-heeled or low-heeled shoes are preferred

*Color of shirts and dresses will depend on the occasion/singing event (for example: red, green, black and white colors are preferred for the Christmas concert)

** Seventh and Eighth Graders will need black and white attire for solo and ensemble

Music Calendar (2011-2012) - subject to change

Monday, August 29 - signed forms due

Friday, December 16 - Christmas Concert

Thursday, April 12 – Dinner Jam

Thursday and Friday, May 3rd & 4th - Spring Musical

