

# MUSIC KARATE

## An Introduction for Parents

### NEW INCENTIVE FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN AND PLAY MUSIC!

Let's face it. Most children are excited to be able to play a musical instrument. But, few want to do the work it takes to truly be successful.

Music Karate aims to make the learning process fun and exciting by giving children an incentive to **practice** and work hard toward success.

In addition, as **discipline** is an important part of mastering martial arts, students are reminded that good behavior and teamwork are essential to success in music. Students will only receive belts if they exhibit good discipline in class.

I look forward to an exciting year of students working individually and together to learn the valuable skills associated with playing a musical instrument! - Mr. Cline, Music Specialist



### THE FAQs

#### What is Music Karate?

Students can earn "belt" levels for successfully playing music of increasing levels of difficulty.

#### Who is participating?

Blue and Purple Clusters are doing "Ukulele Karate", Yellow Cluster is doing "Percussion Karate", and Indigo and Orange Clusters are doing "Recorder Karate".

#### What do the "belts" look like?

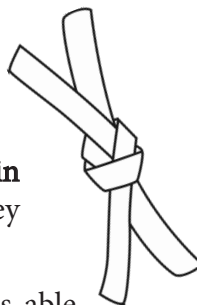
"Belts" are represented by colored rubber bands around the Recorder OR colored keytags for Ukulele and Percussion Karate. *(continued on back)*

### HOW STUDENTS EARN BELTS AND STRIPES

- 1 The student studies the materials on the front of the "Belt" paper and learns any new notes, fingerings, rhythms, chords, symbols, etc.
- 2 The student does worksheets and checks in with classmates if they need help. Once they have a good understanding, they help others.
- 3 The student practices until he or she is able to play a song 5 times through without any significant mistakes.

- 4 The student plays for the teacher. Playing one "Belt" song well earns the student the "Belt".

★ **BONUS:** A "Stripe" can then be earned when the student either plays two more songs, does two worksheets, or does a song and a worksheet.



### HELP NEEDED

Music Karate will be great as it is, but parent volunteers can make it even better! **You don't need to know anything about music to make a difference!**

#### Here are some ways you can help:

1. Labeling of "belt" awards
2. Passing out belt awards to students during class
3. Assisting students learning the music (while teacher tests other students) *\*limited music knowledge required*
4. Donating to help improve the quality and variety of the instruments used in music class and the awards.

# MUSIC KARATE Intro for Parents

## PRACTICE LEADS TO SUCCESS

Instruments are provided during music class most weeks for students to practice individually or with their classmates.

In addition, Mr. Cline offers a supervised practice time in the auditorium every Wednesday and Thursday, as well as most Fridays.

This begins when students are dismissed from class for lunch (12:15pm) and ends when the first lunch bell is rung for the cafeteria (12:35pm).

During both music class and the lunch practice time, students may receive help from Mr. Cline and test for their next belt level or stripe.

While instruments may not leave the school, home practice is recommended as well. See below for more details.

## THE FAQs CONTINUED...

### What do “stripes” look like?

“Belt stripes” are represented as stars that are placed on either the recorder or keytag.

### What is the order of the belts?

Belt levels tend to vary based on where karate is studied and not all colors are available in keytags, rubber bands, and stars. As such, we will be using the following colors in order:

White, Yellow, Orange, Green, Blue, Purple, Red, Aqua, Black

### When are belts received?

The current plan is for belts and stripes to be distributed approximately once-a-month in music class.

Can students take school instruments home for practice?

Unfortunately, no. See more details about home practice options below.

### What if a student loses their “belts”?

Any student who has lost his or her belt awards may continue to earn new belts and stripes beyond their current level. However, this student must retest at any previous levels to have their lost belts replaced.

### Can students bring their own instruments to class?

While it is recommended that students use school instruments during music class, they may bring their own instruments to lunch practice times (see article to the left) to receive additional help specific to their instrument or to have their instrument tuned.

## PRACTICE AT HOME!

While home practice is not a requirement, it will certainly aid in the student’s progress toward achieving higher belt levels.

In addition, no instrument is needed to practice at home!

Students are provided with practice papers in class they can take home to allow them to work on finger placement, etc.

There are also a few free apps available for iOS and Android which decently mimic the feel of the instruments.

That said, nothing is quite as good as practicing on a real instrument and all instruments used in class can be purchased rather inexpensively (\$30 or less).

To make it super easy for you to get your child started practicing at home, I (Mr. Cline) have compiled the following information on my web site:

- recommended instruments for Music Karate practice
- free apps to aid in practice, and
- PDF downloads of the practice papers.

Just visit <https://music.studiocline.com/karate>

## MORE INFO

For questions or to offer your help, please contact Mr. Matthew Cline any time via email:

[music@studiocline.com](mailto:music@studiocline.com)

Or, stop by the auditorium during one of the following times Wednesday Thursday, or Friday:

- 8:45am to 9am
- 10:25am to 10:45am
- 12:15pm to 12:35pm

Mr. Cline also teaches lessons after school most days in either the library or Red Cluster’s room.

Donations should be made to “Friends of Open School” with a note that it is for “Music Enrichment”.