



# Zebulon Middle School Orchestra, Chorus, & Piano

2016 Welcome Letter & Information Overview

## Instructor Information

Name: Mrs. LaSaundra Booth

- BA Music: Cello Performance (North Carolina Central University)
- Masters in Music Education: String Pedagogy (UNC- Greensboro)
- Specialist in Educational Leadership (Northcentral University)
- Doctorate in Educational Leadership (Pending Nov. 2017)

Email: [lbooth@wcpss.net](mailto:lbooth@wcpss.net)

Phone: (919) 404-3630

Office Location: Room 625

Office Hours: By appointment only

Si necesita servicios de traducción gratuitos para comprender los procesos escolares, llame al (919) 852-3303

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى خدمات الترجمة المجانية للتعرف على سير العمليات بالمدرسة، اتصل بالرقم (919) 852-3303

Si vous avez besoin de services de traduction gratuits pour comprendre les procédures scolaires, appelez le (919) 852-3303

यदि आपको विद्यालय की प्रक्रियाओं को समझने के लिए निःशुल्क अनुवाद सेवाएं चाहिए, तो (919) 852-3303 पर कॉल करें

학교/교육 과정에 관한 무료 번역 서비스가 필요하시면 다음 번호로 연락하여 주십시오 (919)852-3303

Nếu quý vị cần sự thông dịch miễn phí để hiểu phương pháp trường học, xin vui lòng gọi số điện thoại, 919-852-3303

# Orchestra, Chorus, & Piano Welcome Letter & Information Overview

Dear Parents:

It's an honor to be able to teach your children! I am excited to bring a fresh, diverse, and creative approach to the ZMS music program. This letter will highlight the most important information for the first week of class. I ask that you please visit our classroom website frequently, and read the detailed syllabus for your child's class.

- I. **Who is MRS. BOOTH?** I am a professional cellist, and have been teaching for 13 years. While I am thankful for my degrees in education, my experiences in life and the classroom have impacted me the most. I was raised in a very low-income, single-parent home. I started playing the cello in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I had no idea at the time that playing my instrument would open the door for me to escape poverty. My high school teacher was Mr. Jesse Suggs, Jr (Tonya Sugg's father), and that's when everything "clicked" for me! Under Mr. Suggs' guidance, I traveled to Sydney, Australia for a tour at the age of 16 years old. By the time I was 17 years old, I was hired to perform with the Raleigh Symphony. Over the next few years, I performed with Durham Symphony, Greensboro Philharmonia, and Duke Symphony Orchestra. I was principal cellist for the Intercollegiate Music Association String Ensemble, performed on television playing cello ("One Tree Hill" -wedding episode), and was featured on the cover of *Opus* magazine for my work teaching strings to youth. I currently own two businesses: Integrity Strings ([www.integritystrings.com](http://www.integritystrings.com)), and the Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra ([www.wfcyo.org](http://www.wfcyo.org)) a 501(c) 3 not for profit organization. Making music changed my life for the better. My hope is that my teaching makes a positive difference in the lives of your children. I look forward to working with you!
- II. **Classroom Focus.** The focus this year is on student leadership, engagement, and growth. All students will create individual performance goals, and I will work closely with each student to help him/her meet those goals to promote their growth. As individuals grow, the ensemble will grow in ability. Therefore, consistent and effective practice is required and is a major portion (30%) of each students' overall grade.
- III. **HANDBOOK/SYLLABUS.** Due to a paper shortage, the full handbook is only available online. Please read the syllabus/handbook for your child's class online as soon as possible so that we are all on the "same page" with expectations, grading, and course policies.
- IV. **WEBSITES.** Our classroom websites will be the primary source to find information regarding our class. The website is updated every week. PLEASE complete all forms online and check the site weekly for updates.  
**Orchestra.** [www.zmsorchestra.weebly.com](http://www.zmsorchestra.weebly.com)      **Chorus & Piano.** [www.zmschorusandpiano.weebly.com](http://www.zmschorusandpiano.weebly.com)
- V. **TWITTER.** Please follow us on twitter @ZebulonMSOCP (all classes are under the same account)  
Most practice assignments are tweeted daily after class, so it is important to follow us today!
- VI. **REMIND (101):** Please sign up to receive important text messages concerning assignments & upcoming events:  
Please text the classroom code to (919) 344-0236

ZMS Music Class	Text Code
CHORUS A (2nd pd),	@ffhca
CHORUS B	@98f8fk
PIANO:	@49g3b7
6th Grade Orchestra.	@e4ghf8
Advanced Orchestra.	@bcg93c

- VII. **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Projects.** We will utilize more technology this year! Orchestra students will begin to create their online portfolios. Once students build the website, they will continue to add to it each year that they are in my class. An example of the portfolio can be found here: [www.leviolinist.weebly.com](http://www.leviolinist.weebly.com) Chorus students will be working cooperatively in groups to create music for our in class talent showcase. Piano students will create a 4 measure composition on *FINALE* music notation software.
- VIII. **Practice Assignments.** Practice logs are due online every Sunday by 11p.m. Reminders are sent out weekly. The practice log form is located on each website: <http://zmsorchestra.weebly.com/practice-log.html> or <http://zmsorchestraandchorus.weebly.com/practice-log.html> **No exemptions will be made for students who fail to turn in practice logs online this quarter.**
- IX. **Grades.** are updated every Friday. Our new policy is 40% for tests, major projects, rehearsal technique; 30% for skills assessments (practice logs), small projects, quizzes, 20% for classwork, and 10% for homework. Please email me if there are any questions at [lbooth@wcpss.net](mailto:lbooth@wcpss.net)
- X. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** The music program is in need of classroom volunteers to chaperone and to help inside of the classroom. If you are available, please sign up in the main office during the first week of school. Please sign up for LEVEL 4 clearance. I need male and female parents or guardians to sign up in the main office to volunteer by September 9, 2016.

**Please check the ZMS Music Website for all course information**

[WWW.ZMSORCHESTRA.WEEBLY.COM](http://WWW.ZMSORCHESTRA.WEEBLY.COM) OR [WWW.ZMSCHORUSANDPIANO.WEEBLY.COM](http://WWW.ZMSCHORUSANDPIANO.WEEBLY.COM)

**XI. Upcoming Calendar Events**

Month	Day	Time	Event Description
September 2016	2	Class Period	Important Forms Due
October 2016	10	10a.m.	Sphinx Chamber Concert Ligon Middle School
December	15	6:00-7:00p.m.	Winter Concert Orchestra
December	15	7:30p.m.	Chorus Winter Concert

---

## 2016 Orchestra, Chorus, & Piano Welcome Letter & Information Overview

**Parents.** Please detach this portion of the letter, sign, and return to Mrs. Booth by September 6, 2016. Students will receive a **homework grade** for turning this form in. This form will be placed in their portfolios for documentation.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_