

Selecting an Instrument

Q. When do students select instruments?

A. During mid-Spring of the 3rd grade year, all students are given the opportunity to select and experience instruments offered in the instrumental music program during a process called the “petting zoo.” Students get another opportunity to sign up for an instrument going into their 5th grade year.

Q. Which instruments are available?

A. Band: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, and Percussion (drums/bells). Strings: Violin, Viola, and Cello.

Q. How do students make their selection?

A. The student-instrument match is a very important part of your child’s success. During the 3rd grade “petting zoo” process, students’ physical characteristics, abilities, and general interests are identified and evaluated, with potential problems noted. The instrumental staff will then recommend an instrument for your child that they believe offers the best chance for success. If you have any questions concerning the recommendation, please call or email the instrumental music staff. (Final instrument choice is up to the parents.) 4th graders are given the opportunity to re-try instruments at the end of the school year upon request.

Q. How do students enroll in band/strings?

A. There is an online Google Form located on the District website. Locate your school’s form and complete by June 16, 2017.

Q. How does one obtain an instrument?

A. Instruments are rented by the parent/guardian, unless you own your instrument. Hanover Township has established a list of requirements and services that some local vendors have agreed to provide our students. The intent is to better ensure you with a quality instrument and service. *If you are planning to purchase an instrument, please contact one of the Hanover music teachers to discuss choices to ensure your child receives a quality instrument.*

Q. Are school instruments available for loan?

A. A few larger instruments are available for students to borrow each year on a first come/first serve basis. Special situations will be handled individually.

Q. When may a student take an instrument not offered in the 4th or 5th grade?

A. In 6th grade, with the teacher’s approval and depending upon availability, students may begin the following instruments: Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, and Tuba.

Lessons and Rehearsals

Q. When do students begin lessons?

A. The 4th grade instrumental program begins in September, and Band students begin with our “Band Kick-off Weeks.” 5th grade instrumental lessons will also begin in September. A schedule will be provided at the start of the school year.

Q. What are “Band Kick-off Weeks?”

A. The first two weeks of your child’s 4th grade instrumental instruction will begin with a series of two introductory lessons per week. This provides vital contact with a music specialist during the formative stages of your child’s instrumental development. Kick-off Weeks also help establish a consistent pattern of daily home practice based on correct procedures and techniques.

Lessons and Rehearsals (continued)

Q. What is the difference between “Lessons” and “Band/Strings?”

A. Small group lessons are held once per week *during school* on a rotating schedule. Full Band/Strings rehearsals are held on the same day as lessons, but during recess with everyone who plays an instrument.

Q. Who teaches the lessons and what is the cost?

A. Instrumental music educators in the school system give the lessons. There is no charge for these lessons.

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians and Students

Q. What are the responsibilities of the parents/guardians?

A. The responsibilities of the parents/guardians are:

- Review the terms and conditions of the rental agreement.
- Show your child that you are interested in his/her musical studies.
- Encourage your child to practice.
- Help him/her to set a consistent practice time and place.
- Read and sign the Weekly Practice Report.
- Contact the instrumental music teacher if there are any problems or questions.

Q. What are the responsibilities of the student?

A. The responsibilities of the student are:

- Set up a daily practice time.
- Take care of the instrument.
- Attend all lessons and Band/Strings rehearsals.
- Bring music, folder, and a pencil to every lesson and Band/Strings rehearsal.
- Make up any work missed in class during lesson period (Lessons are set on a rotating schedule so the same class is not always missed.)
- Do not leave the instrument in school.
- Practice proper discipline and behavior.

Q. Who pays for the music?

A. The parent purchases the lesson workbook, which is used and kept by the student. The school provides all other music for class and performances.

Q. Are there additional costs?

A. Individual instruments require various supplies. A complete list will be provided with the instrument rental information. Costs are minimal.

Q. How does a student drop from the program?

A. We want your child to be a success. If problems arise, please call the instrumental music teacher immediately. Working together, the teacher, parent, and child can solve almost any problem. As a final step, a student may drop from the program with written notification from the parent to the instrumental music teacher. Like any team sport, we hope your child will participate for the full ‘season,’ which ends with our Spring Concert in June.

A Guideline to Renting Online with Music & Arts

NOTE: The “trial period” rates become available online on June 1st.

- Go to the Music & Arts website: <http://www.musicarts.com/>
- Select the “Rentals” tab at the top-center of the site.
- In the pop-up window, enter your school’s zip code and click “Continue.”
- Under “Select Student’s Grade,” choose the grade your child will be entering in the 2017-18 school year. Click “Continue.”
- “Customize Your Rental:”
 1. **Select Your School** – Scroll until you find your child’s school. Then click on that school to proceed.
 2. **Select Your Instrument** – Click on the instrument your child has selected to play. Review the items that appear on the screen. Select, or un-select the LDW option. Click “Continue.”
 3. **Select School Supplies** – Select any additional items you would like your child to have with their instrument rental. The Standard of Excellence lesson book is required for all Band students, and the Essential Elements lesson book is required for all Strings students. The music stand is highly recommended for proper home practice. Click “Continue.”
 4. **Provide Additional Rental Information** – Complete the information required. Unless your child is signed up for a summer music camp, like Mt. Tabor Music Camp, or is taking private lessons over the summer, we recommend selecting the “Fall Delivery” option. (All “Fall Delivery” selections will be delivered directly to your child’s school in time for their first September instrumental lesson.) Click “Add to Cart.”
- Finish your online rental by reviewing your “Shopping Cart” and clicking “Checkout.” Complete the remaining required information to secure an instrument for your child.

Other rental options:

1. A hard copy of a rental contract can be provided upon request.
2. You can rent directly at a Music & Arts store, Schmeed’s Music (831 Pine Plaza – State Highway 10 East, Whippany, NJ 07981), or any other rental company.

Please contact one of the instrumental music teachers if you have any questions. Thank you.

Your Elementary School Instrumental Music Staff,

Mrs. White, Band Director

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