

Westford Public Schools
Visual and Performing Arts Department

Elementary Instrumental Music

Handbook

2017-2018



Abbot Elementary School

John A. Crisafulli Elementary School

Norman E. Day Elementary School

- Strings and Band classes take place once per week with other students in the same class and grade.
- Strings classes begin in Grade 3 and Band classes begin in Grade 4. Please see the following page for Instrumental Selection.
- There is an Instrumental Music Fee of \$235, which pays for participation in the program. This does not cover the Instrument Rental, which is paid to an outside vendor to rent the instrument.

Instrumental Selection

Grade 3

Students may select *one* of the following instruments:

Strings: Violin, Viola, or Cello

Grade 4

Students may select *one* of the following instruments:

Strings: Violin, Viola, or Cello

~or~

Band: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone or Percussion (Drum/Bell Kit)

Grade 5

Students may select *one* of the following instruments:

Strings: Violin, Viola, Cello, or Double Bass

~or~

Band: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion (Drum/Bell Kit), French Horn or Oboe



Students with or without experience may opt to join the string or band program. Students will begin instruction at the beginner level on a string instrument in Grade 3 and beginner level on a band instrument in Grade 4. It is highly recommended that students choosing to begin a string instrument after Grade 3 or a band instrument after Grade 4 supplement their study with private lessons outside of school. Please contact your child's Instrumental Music Teacher for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions (page 1)

1. Can my child study both a string and band instrument?

The instruction for both string and band take place during the same time for your child's class. Unfortunately, this means that a child would need to select one class to participate in.

2. Does the Instrumental Music Fee include the rental of the instrument?

No, the Instrumental Music Fee does not cover the cost of the Instrument Rental. The Instrumental Music Fee pays for participation in the Program, which provides the weekly lessons.

3. What is the difference between the Instrumental Music Fee and the Instrument Rental?

As stated in the previous question, the Instrumental Music Fee pays for participation in the program, which provides the weekly lessons. The Instrument Rental is paid to an outside vendor and pays for rental of the instrument.

4. How do we acquire an instrument?

There will be a Rental Day in the Abbot Gymnasium on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 8:30-11:00 am where Instrument Vendors will be available to rent instruments to families. You may also choose to rent an instrument at a location of your choosing at a more convenient time.

5. Do we need to attend the Rental Day?

No, you do not need to attend if you already have an instrument. The Rental Day is meant for families who would like to rent an instrument, or need to purchase a new lesson book for their child. You may also opt to visit a local music store to rent an instrument or purchase a book.

6. We have done some research and discovered an instrument at a better price than renting. Shouldn't we just purchase an instrument?

This is a difficult question to answer, but most experience we have had with "lesser expensive" instruments is you typically get what you pay for. It is crucial when a child is learning to play an instrument that the instrument is in excellent condition, and be properly maintained. Please do not hesitate contacting your child's music teacher for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions (Page 2)

7. Will my child miss new instruction in their classroom during their Strings or Band lesson?

No new instruction is provided to students in their grade level classroom during the Strings or Band weekly lesson.

8. How will I know how my child is performing with their Strings or Band instrument?

The respective instructor will formally communicate student progress with parents two or three times (depending on the grade level of the student) during the school year.

9. Will my child participate in any concerts as part of the Strings or Band program?

Concerts are conducted periodically during the school year at each respective school, as well as town-wide concerts including students from other schools.

10. My child has been playing his/her instrument prior and will be ahead of the level of the class. What opportunities are available?

Each school has an ensemble that meets once per week before school. Typically this ensemble is meant for Grade 5 students and younger students with experience. Please contact your child's music teacher for more information.

Do you have additional questions? Please do not hesitate contacting us!

*****Instrument Rental Day will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 8:30-11:00 am in the Abbot School Gymnasium.*****

Instrumental Music Registration Form
(Please return this form with payment to your school's Main Office
before Friday, September 8, 2017)

Instrument Choices (please select one):

Grade 3 **Strings:** Violin, Viola, or Cello

Grade 4 **Strings:** Violin, Viola, or Cello
Band: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone or Percussion

Grade 5 **Strings:** Violin, Viola, Cello, or Double Bass
Band: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone,
Percussion, French Horn or Oboe

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Is it home or cell?

Email: (please print clearly) _____

Student Name First/Last	Homeroom Teacher	Grade	Instrument Choice	Fee \$235 per Student (Cash or Check please)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Registration will not be accepted without full payment. Please submit registration form along with payment in full before Friday, September 8, 2017 to the main office at your child's school. Please make checks payable to Westford Public Schools.

Don't forget Instrument Rental Day on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 8:30-11:00 am in the Abbot Gymnasium!