

Winchester Public Schools Department of Music

NOW ENROLLING!
2019-2020 Musical Instrument Lessons
for students in grades 3, 4, and 5

Online registration at: <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/TransactionInfo.aspx?transid=9286>

Winchester Public Schools offers an extensive program of instrument lessons and ensembles for students in grades 3 – 12. The Instrumental Lesson Program begins in the 3rd and 4th Grades. Playing an instrument can be a rewarding and lifelong pursuit and a wonderful way to feel connected to other students. In addition, increasing brain research on the subject shows that there are significant brain benefits from studying an instrument at an early age. Check out the NAFME (National Association for Music Education) sponsored website: www.broaderminded.com for more information about the benefits of music education.

When selecting an instrument, please consider the following:

- Students have the most success when they study an instrument that they are drawn to.
- If you would like some assistance or suggestions in choosing an instrument for your child, please reach out to your child's school music teacher or one of our instrumental instructors. He/She would be happy to guide you in the selection process. You may also access some selected links to instrument demonstrations on the Winchester Friends of Music page (www.sachemsmusic.com)
- The best ensembles are those that have a good balance of instruments – if your child might be interested in playing a less common instrument, please contact the music director for information.

Group Lessons

Lessons are organized by instrument family and grade level. If students have prior experience or are starting new in fifth grade, instrumental instructors will make decisions regarding appropriate placement in the lesson program.

- **Strings** (violin, viola, cello, or bass) - lessons **start in 3rd grade**
- **Woodwinds** (flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone) - lessons **start in 4th grade**
- **Brass** (trumpet, French horn, trombone or baritone) - lessons **start in 4th grade**

(Percussion lessons are part of the McCall music program and are not offered in elementary school.)

Lesson Schedule:

Lessons begin at each of the elementary schools in September. There are a minimum of 28 lessons during the course of a year, usually several more. A schedule of days and times will be distributed by the teacher in the fall. Students receive one 45-minute lesson per week on the same day each week. Occasionally lessons are cancelled for MCAS testing, if there is a delayed opening, or if a teacher is out. We will inform parents through school announcements and e-mail in as timely a manner as possible.

Orchestra and Band:

Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in our weekly ensembles that complement the lessons. Students enrolled in school lessons may join at no additional cost. Students who take private lessons are welcome to join for a small fee.

- **Orchestra** (for string players)- Wednesday afternoons at McCall
- **Band** (for woodwind, brass and percussion players) - Day and time vary by elementary school. Second year players begin in October. Beginners join in February.

COST & APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Early Bird Fee- \$350 paid in full before August 31st
- After August 31st - The fee will be \$400 paid in full
- Orchestra Only- \$100 (For students who take lessons outside of school)
- Band Only- \$100 (For students who take lessons outside of school)

Students new to the district will be admitted for a prorated fee anytime during the year. Students who start lessons in September but drop out before October 31 will receive a full refund of fees paid. **No refund after October 31st.**

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION

Most of our students rent instruments with one of the dealers listed below. Some choose to purchase an instrument. Please be aware that some inexpensive instruments available at online auction sites and with online or big box retailers can prove unusable. Most rental companies include a maintenance/repair service with the rental. Also, with strings, having the instrument fit the student is critical (strings instruments come in different sizes). Used instruments can be fine, but again, exercise caution if you're not purchasing from a local music store that you trust. Please contact us if you would like our assistance.

Renting an Instrument:

These companies will deliver to Winchester in early September. Contact them directly to reserve an instrument.

String Companies:

Johnson Strings: 617-964-0954
Spencer Brook Strings: 978-897-6382

Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion:

K&C Music Company: 781-769-6520
Leonard's Music: 781-271-1189
National Music: 781-933-6300

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP, SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS:

- Financial Aid/Scholarship for lessons will be awarded to families who qualify for free and/or reduced lunch. The form can be found on the WPS website, www.winchesterps.org under FAMILY RESOURCES > More Information > Food Services.
- Please contact the music director if you would like to request a school owned instrument. (mcostello@winchesterps.org)

We have a limited supply of school-owned, used instruments for students whose financial need might limit their ability to take lessons. Additional instruments are loaned on a first come, first served basis. Be aware that the instrument available may not reflect a student's first choice. There is a **maintenance fee of \$40 for cleaning and repair** (checks made out to Winchester Public Schools at time of instrument pick-up). Families are responsible for repairs and replacement in case of damage.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

We welcome donations to provide financial assistance to students who might otherwise be unable to study an instrument!! If you wish to help, please send your donation (memo: music scholarship) to the Director of Finance, Winchester Public Schools, 40 Samoset Road, Winchester, MA 01890.

TO SIGN UP FOR ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS and BAND or ORCHESTRA

Log on to our Unipay lesson registration site at:

<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/TransactionInfo.aspx?transid=9286>

For more information or assistance contact: Mary Costello, Director of Music -

mcostello@winchesterps.org