

# Information for Music Lesson Enrollment

available for 4th & 5th grade students 2018-2019 school year

Dear 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

I am sending an early invitation for you to consider having your child join the Instrumental Music program! While lessons don't begin until September some are anxious to join the enrollment list now. I will be making visits to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms in the coming week to demonstrate the various instruments they can choose to play next school year. Perhaps your child is already expressing an interest in playing in band, or plays an instrument already. Playing music is rewarding in so many ways. It teaches children the value of teamwork, dedication and perseverance. You do not need prior playing experience to join the program!

Please read the steps below to begin the process of enrolling in the program. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at CLUBERGER@CBOEK12.ORG

Note: I have requested on the enrollment form to choose a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice instrument. The only time I will suggest the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice instrument is if we happen to have 50 flutes signed up, which wouldn't make for a well-balanced band. **More info on page 2 regarding instrument sections that are small and the band can use more of.**

## Steps to take, and what you will need:

1. **Signing up** – Use the online form on Ms. Luberger's website to sign up your child for lessons. **Cresskillmusic.weebly.com**  
While lessons don't begin until September, you can begin signing up as early as June, and as late as September 12<sup>th</sup>. **The earlier you sign up, the better chance you have of playing your first instrument choice!** Please check off the box if you are interested in Summer Music lessons either at the High School or private lessons, and I will send you that information.
2. **Renting an instrument** - If you plan to take summer lessons you should rent your instrument soon. I will send info regarding Summer Music lessons through the HS Music Boosters! Otherwise, you can wait until September to get an instrument delivered to the school (Music Shop) or pick up from another store (listed on page 2) Please contact me before purchasing any instrument, if you do not have any knowledge of musical instruments (unfortunately there are many "fake instruments" online which impede in the learning process).
3. **Wait to hear from me** via email when lessons will start and what time and day your child will have their lesson. Please understand I am as excited to start as your child is, but it takes a few weeks for me to sort the names, find teaching space and a quiet environment to schedule lessons. I hope to begin lessons for returning 5<sup>th</sup> graders by week two of September, and new students joining the program by week 3.

**\*For students interested in drums:** Understand there may be a waiting list to play in the band, as I usually cut off the number of drummers in band at 10. We already have 8 continuing from the previous school year. I will assess your child with a rhythm and tempo test, just to be sure keeping a steady tempo and reading notes is not going to be a huge hurdle. **Once assessments are completed I will let you know whether drums/ percussion is a good choice for your child, or suggest another instrument.** Students should also understand we do not learn the drum set, but play all the percussion instruments in the band: snare drum, bass drum, tambourine, cymbals, maracas, etc.

**\*Wind instruments:** It is recommended to rent an instrument for the first year, until your child knows they are going to “stick with it”. Payments made towards the rental can eventually be applied to the purchase of the instrument, which is another benefit of renting (provided you are provided a quality instrument through the company you choose). I recommend the Music Shop, since I can ask them which instruments not to lend out, and which I prefer students to play on.

**\*String instruments** come in 4 different sizes. At the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level, usually ¼ size fits well, and as your child grows, you can trade in the instrument for a larger upgrade (if you rent) **Strings don't normally play in the BAND**, unless students have prior knowledge and can play in the key of Bflat and Eflat. Beginner string players will be given an opportunity to try string **ORCHESTRA** music, which does not rehearse as often as BAND.

The Music Shop is the company that will deliver to the schools, and take care of pick-ups when repairs are needed for WIND INSTRUMENTS. (See below for recommended String instrument rentals.) You are welcome to use any music store of your choice; whatever suits your needs. Please remember to **enroll with me first, before renting an instrument.** Instruments in the band that we could use more of: **clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone.** We do have some **school owned instruments to borrow** that are usually more expensive to rent (not in the greatest condition though): trombones (5) and baritones (2).

**Other Band Instrument vendors:** Odibella Music in Bergenfield, Music & Arts Center in Paramus.

**String instrument vendor:** Main Violin in Fort Lee (their form is on my website)

**Required Book:**     **Drums** – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Drum Method (Alyn Heim)  
                              **Winds** – Standard of Excellence (Neil Kjos)  
                              **Strings – Beginners:** Essential Elements  
                              **Strings – Intermediate/Advanced:** Suzuki or other lesson book

I know it is a lot of info at once, but this will also be posted on my website if you need to check in over the summer. Thank you for your help with all of the above! I will invite you to join the Remind Group for new students, to ease communication. Opting for text reminders is recommended, but you can also opt for email reminders, announcements, etc.

*Ms. Lubberger*