Information for Music Lesson Enrollment

(read with your parents)

(available for 4th & 5th grade students)

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. While lessons don’t begin until mid-September, you can begin signing up as early as June, and as late as September 12th. **The earlier you sign up, the better chance you have of playing your first instrument choice**! The enrollment form link was also been emailed to all 3rd and 4th graders on Juune 7th. **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 (highly recommended if you would like to start the school year playing in the school band), you should rent your instrument soon. Otherwise, students can wait until September to get an instrument delivered to the school (Music Shop) or pick up from another store. 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).

\***For drum students**, 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**, and your child is “ready” please purchase a medium size drum pad and a pair of sticks size 5A or close to that size. Students should 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 4th 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.

(CONTINUED)

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. **There is an option on the enrollment form to request more info regarding rentals. Do not rent an instrument before signing up with me please!**

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

If you choose one of these stores, you will have to bring the instrument there for any repairs. You will also have to tell them which book we use (which you purchase when you pick up your rental)

**String instruments**: Main Violin in Fort Lee or Right Tune in Closter

**Required Book**: **Drums** – Standard of Excellence (Neil Kjos)

**Winds** – Standard of Excellence (Neil Kjos)

**Strings – Beginners**: Essential Elements

**Strings – Intermediate/Advanced**: Whatever you are using with private teacher

1. Pencil and music folder

I will be distributing folders once they are delivered, but students are responsible for always having a pencil when in lessons or rehearsal to make markings in the music.

1. Any band music with your name at the top. You will be given a replacement copy only once, so please keep track of your music just so I don’t have to constantly bring back up copies between schools.

**Lessons** begin during the school day once a week in September, **and full band rehearsals** once a week before school in October. We first begin band with students who played in a concert last year, and as beginners reach their benchmarks in their books, they are invited to attend band rehearsals to try some songs with us! Gold Band are returning students, and Silver Band are new players.

There will be one string piece **(orchestra**) for students to play in the 1st concert (violin, viola, cello) once they learn their D major scale (highlighted in their books). However, if there are 4th graders who sign up and can play Suzuki Book 2 already, we may form a string ensemble earlier. It all depends on instrumentation, and planning rehearsal time!

Thank you for your help with all of the above!  **Playing music is a fun and rewarding experience, no matter what level your child begins at.** Always feel free to email me with any concerns, and remember to check the website regularly for any updates to the schedule. [www.cresskillmusic.weebly.com](http://www.cresskillmusic.weebly.com)

Ms. Luberger

cluberger@cboek12.org