



Oak Park School District 97 • Instrumental Music Department

August 2019

Dear 5th Grade Families:

If you did not have a chance to participate in one of our music programs last year, or are new to the district, please read on about band, orchestra and choir. If you did participate in one of these programs, we will send out more info soon and are so happy to have you back!

District 97 offers beginning classes in **orchestra** and **band** instruments to all interested 5th grade students. Instruments of the orchestra include violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Band instruments are flute, clarinet, saxophone, cornet or trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and percussion. The classes will begin during the week of September 23rd and will continue throughout the entire school year. Classes are thirty minutes in length and are held during school hours. (Always on the same day of the week, but the times rotate throughout the day to minimize impact on other academics.) They are scheduled in small-group lessons with like instruments, and include the rudiments of note-reading, technique, and instrument care. There is no charge for these classes, **but students must provide their own instruments.** (Books will be provided by the district.) Each school will have individual performances throughout the year, but on Wednesday, April 1st, 2020, all of the elementary Band & Orchestra students in the district come together at OPRF High School for our Annual Elementary Instrumental Festival.

The Instrumental Music faculty will visit each elementary school on either Tuesday, September 3rd or Thursday, September 5th. We will demonstrate all of the available instruments, and send home a packet of information. Please keep your eyes open for it! **Information will be posted to our website periodically at <http://www.op97.org/instrumental-music>**

Students who are interested in learning to play an instrument should come with their parents to one of the following open houses:

<b>Tuesday, September 10th, 2019</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Percy Julian Middle School</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 11th, 2019</b>	<b>5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Percy Julian Middle School</b>

In order to enroll for Instrumental Music, you and your student need to complete the three steps below by Friday, September 13th (All of the below will be available at the two open houses):

1. **CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT** – During the first week of school, 4<sup>th</sup> graders will see an assembly demonstrating all of the available instruments. At the open house, each student may try up to three instruments. When making a choice, it is important to consider how the instrument sounds, how it feels to play it, and how it will be transported to and from school on lesson days.
2. **RENT AN INSTRUMENT** – District 97 does not supply the instruments for students. You may sign-up with representatives from Music & Arts Center or Kagan & Gaines Music Company at the open house, or contact Austin Music or another reputable local dealer on your own. If your family is experiencing financial difficulties, PING can provide an instrument at a reduced cost. <https://sites.google.com/site/pingopr/>
3. **FILL OUT D97 ENROLLMENT FORM** – This is an online form, and computers will be available at the enrollment nights, or you may access it via the main district web page beginning on Tuesday, September 3rd. Please fill this form out **AFTER** you have arranged to rent an instrument.

Although instruments may be rented, purchased, or borrowed, the District 97 instrumental music staff highly recommends that beginning students rent their instruments. Most music merchants will apply the rental fee toward the purchase price of the instrument and will provide instrument repair for their customers. *We specifically warn against buying an instrument from vendors who are not music merchants. These vendors include department store catalogues; discount membership warehouses, and online sales.* An instrument purchased in this way may be of low quality and can cause playing problems for the children.

**Renting or purchasing an instrument does not enroll your child for lessons in D97**

**ENROLLMENT FOR BAND/ORCHESTRA MUST BE COMPLETED BY Friday, September 13th**

District 97 is noted for its excellent music program. Your participation will be a rewarding experience. We hope to see you when school starts!

Sincerely,

**District 97 Instrumental Music Department**

Jayne Barnard, Ryan Bigeck, Fernando Carrillo, Andrew Davis, Sandra Korelc, Gabrielle Rosenblum, Ericka Shannon, Amy Vogt  
Tom Kanwischer, *Coordinator for Instrumental Music*  
Andrew Seymour *Coordinator for Vocal/General Music*

Stay connected with all of our events and information at <http://www.op97.org/instrumental-music>