



Oak Park School District 97 • Instrumental Music Department

August 2020

Dear 4th Grade Families:

As a 4th grader, your student has some new musical opportunities this year: Instrumental Music (Band or Orchestra) and Chorus! Students may choose to play an instrument and/or sing in the Chorus.

District 97 offers beginning classes in **orchestra** and **band** instruments to all interested 4th grade students. Instruments of the orchestra include violin, viola and cello. Band instruments are clarinet, saxophone, cornet or trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and percussion. **Please note that string bass and flute will not be offered this school year due to the challenges these instruments pose in the remote learning environment.** The classes will begin during the week of September 21st 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 may 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 instrumental music teacher will provide a Zoom link that will be used for all of their lessons.

The Instrumental Music faculty have put together a virtual instrument demonstration assembly video for students to view at www.op97.org/instrumental-music.

Students who are interested in learning to play an instrument should attend our Virtual Open House with their parents on **Wednesday, September 9th, 2020 @ 7 PM:**
[Sign up here to receive zoom link](#)

In order to enroll for Instrumental Music, you and your student need to complete the three steps below by Sunday, September 13th :

1. **CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT** – During the first week of school, 4th graders will view our virtual assembly video, demonstrating all of the available instruments. At the virtual open house, Instrumental Music Staff will provide an overview of our elementary instrumental music program as well as answer questions that family members may have about our program (available in the sign up document above). When making an instrument choice, it is important to consider how the instrument sounds, any possible physical challenges each instrument may face (i.e. size, weight, etc.), and how it will be transported to and from school on lesson days.
2. **FILL OUT D97 ENROLLMENT FORM** – This is an online form you may access it via the main district web page beginning on Tuesday, September 1st www.op97.org/instrumental-music . Please fill this form out to receive rental information specific to the instrument you choose..
3. **RENT AN INSTRUMENT** – District 97 does not supply the instruments for students. You may sign-up online with Music & Arts Center or Kagan & Gaines Music Company, or contact Austin Music or another reputable local dealer on your own. If your family is experiencing financial difficulties, PING can provide an instrument and are also waving their annual rental fee this school year. www.pingopr.org

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 on-line 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 Sunday, 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, Shabaaz Ranney, Gabrielle Rosenblum, Ericka Shannon, Amy Vogt

Tom Kanwischer, *Coordinator for Instrumental Music*

Wesley McKinney *Coordinator for Vocal/General Music*

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