



4th & 5th Grade **Beginning** String/Band Lessons



Dear Parents/Guardians of Fourth Grade Students,

The Mechanicsburg Area School District Music Department offers fourth and fifth grade students the opportunity to expand and enrich their lives through instrumental music lessons. Students may elect to participate in string or band instrument music lessons. Students who choose to play an instrument will receive one lesson per cycle during the school day plus additional ensemble experiences later in the school year. Classes will be organized for *violin, viola, cello, string bass, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, snare drum and mallet percussion*. Each participating student is responsible for obtaining an instrument and a lesson book; however, there is no charge for the lessons.

Recently, your student participated in an Instrument Petting Zoo where they had the opportunity to hear, touch, and try up to three different instruments. Please find information below regarding steps required should you choose to enroll in instrumental music lessons this year.

Enrolling your student in instrument lessons requires the following steps:

1. Complete the linked registration sheet ASAP, <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSezXHMJesjVm46XBkmI0B-edbxM7M0tVgkUyMkyqx9S UMimQ/viewform> or by next Friday, September 13th at the latest. Paper forms are available in the Main Office if you are unable to register online.
2. When selecting an instrument, choose a “3 - definitely recommended” or “2-recommended” from the yellow sheet your student brought home.
3. A limited number of spots will be available for french horn, tuba, mallets and snare drum, Mr. Hildebrand will meet with interested students to audition them for available spots.
4. Attend the **Parent Information Meeting** on **Monday, September 16th at 7:30PM** in the **MMS Auditorium**.

PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THE PARENT MEETING BEFORE OBTAINING AN INSTRUMENT

- If you already happen to have an instrument from a friend or family member, please send it in for us to check out and make sure it's suitable and ready to play.
- If your student is interested in playing the cello or bass, they will need a ride to school once per cycle on their lesson day as large instruments cannot be taken on the bus.
- Additionally, there is a small bank of school-owned instruments which can be loaned to students on a needs-based assessment. Please contact us if you are interested in utilizing the instrument bank.

As students tried up to three different instruments, they received either “3” - Definitely, “2” - Yes, or “1” - No ratings. We assess students on many criteria, most important of which are sound production and physical build. If your child is unable to produce a sound, or has physical characteristics that would deter from their success, we will mark their rating as “1” because we want them to find an instrument with which they CAN be successful.

We also look for balance in our ensembles. A band of all saxophones or an orchestra of all violas will be limited in what they can do. As students are registered, we may ask them to consider other instruments to balance the instrumentation.

Sincerely,

Dane Hildebrand dhildebrand@mbgsd.org and Christopher Wenger cwenger@mbgsd.org
Band and Orchestra directors, Elmwood Academy