Oak Park School District 97 • Instrumental Music Department

August 2017

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 to 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, 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 18th 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 Tuesday, April 10th, 2017, 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, August 29th or Thursday, August 31st. We will demonstrate all of the available instruments, and send home a purple packet of information. Please keep your eyes open for it! **If you would like to get a look at the packet ahead of time, it is available at http://www.op97.org/instrumental-music/Registration**

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

Tuesday, September 5th, 2017	**5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**	**Gwendolyn Brooks School**
Wednesday, September 6th, 2017	**5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**	**Percy Julian School**

In order to enroll for Instrumental Music, you and your student need to complete the three steps below by Friday, September 8th (All of the below will be available at the two open houses):

1. **CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT** – During the first week of school, 4th 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 student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, PING is group that can provide an instrument at a reduced cost.

> 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.

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 Friday, September 1st. Please fill this form out AFTER you have arranged to rent an instrument.

ENROLLMENT FOR BAND/ORCHESTRA MUST BE COMPLETED BY Friday, September 8th

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
Jayme Barnard, Fernando Carrillo, Vince Greco,Sandra Korelc, Gabrielle Rosenblum, Brian Shannon, Ericka Shannon, Amy Vogt
Tom Kanwischer, *Coordinator for Instrumental Music*
Andrew Seymour/Anjali Ashokan *Coordinators for Vocal/General Music*

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