Oak Park School District 97 • Instrumental Music Department

August 2022

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 about band and orchestra. If you did participate in one of these programs, we sent out info in August and are so happy to have you back!

District 97 offers beginning classes in **orchestra** and **band** instruments to all interested 4th, & 5th grade students. Instruments of the orchestra include: violin, viola, cello, and bass. Band instruments are: flute, clarinet, saxophone, cornet or trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and percussion. The classes will begin during the week of September 19th 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 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.)

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 or in person open house with their parents:

Virtual Open House
Tuesday, September 6th @ 7 PM:
Live streamed at https://youtu.be/Iw7m5bjqz-0

In-Person Open House
Thursday, September 8th @ 5-8 PM
Julian Middle School

In order to enroll for Instrumental Music, you and your student need to complete the three steps below by Sunday, September 11th :

1. **CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT** – During the first two weeks of school, students will have an opportunity to learn about the different instruments available. You can attend a virtual or in person open house where 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. If your child knows what they want to play, we recommend attending the virtual open house. Our in-person open house will provide an opportunity to see the instruments, however, due to continued Covid-19 mitigations, students will not be able to play instruments.

2. **FILL OUT D97 ENROLLMENT FORM** – This is an online form you may access it via the main district web page beginning on Thursday, 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.pingoprf.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. *Do not Buy 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 forms must still be completed.**

ENROLLMENT FOR BAND/ORCHESTRA MUST BE COMPLETED BY Sunday, September 11th.

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, 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*

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