

NATIVITY SCHOOL MUSIC SIGN-UP PACKET 2023-2024



**BAND
CHORUS
ORCHESTRA**

Grades 3-8

Dear Nativity Families:

As you look forward to the next school year, you may consider adding the study of a musical instrument or chorus to your student's school routine. Learning an instrument helps your child to develop important life skills and provides students with a safe opportunity to express themselves. Students in grades 3-8 will be able to study an instrument or sing in chorus and participate in an ensemble. Third graders will take a half-hour group class once weekly and will perform in a modified fashion on both concerts. Fourth through eighth graders will receive one 30-minute lesson each week (on a rotating basis during the school day) and a one-hour ensemble class after school starting in November. These students will perform on the Christmas Concert and on the Spring Concert. Students who sign up for lessons are required to maintain a passing academic average and will be removed from study if they are unable to maintain academic work. Students will also be expected to practice daily. All students will receive a written progress report at the end of each marking period in lieu of a grade. Make-up lesson times will be available each trimester. If you are continuing study from last year (or are transferring in from another school program) please indicate the instrument that your child studies when you sign up.

Your child also has the opportunity to sing in Festival Chorus during the school year. Chorus is open to all students, grades 3-8, and we perform at the Christmas concert, Spring Concert, Riverworks, and various school Mass celebrations. Other special events may include Christmas Caroling and the Darien Lake Music Festival Competition or NYSSMA Choral Majors Festival (depending on interest). We perform a wide variety of music from all genres, making sure to include repertoire that is diverse and spiritually meaningful. Students are allowed to participate in more than one ensemble. 6th-8th grade girls also have the opportunity to sing in Women's Choir, which meets during recess once a week.

We use Google Classroom and your child will receive login information at their first lesson/rehearsal in September. We also use the Remind text service.

I hope your child will join us for some fabulous music making this upcoming school year. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions: rwilliams@nativityschool.net

Grace and Peace,

Mrs. Williams

Instruments, Scheduling, and Fees

Instruments to choose from:

Band:

Flute*

Clarinet

Oboe*

Alto Saxophone

Trumpet

French Horn

Trombone*

Baritone

Percussion/Mallet Percussion

(* indicates an area of need for our band!)

Orchestra:

Violin

Viola*

Cello*

Double Bass*

Harp

Guitar

Schedule:

Grade 3 Band/Orchestra (beginners): one morning per week, 7:45-8:15am

Grades 4-8 Band: Lessons-once a week during the school day; group rehearsals-Monday afternoons, 2:30-3:30pm

Grades 4-8 Orchestra: Lessons-once a week during the school day; group rehearsals-Thursdays mornings, 7:45-8:15am

Grades 3-8 Chorus: Tuesday afternoons, 2:30-3:30pm

Grade 6-8 Women's Choir: Thursdays during lunch period recess

We may add a Men's Choir if there is interest

We will begin lessons the week of **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th**, after school rehearsals for band/morning rehearsals for orchestra will begin on the week of **MONDAY, November 6th**.

Band and orchestra will have no after school/before school rehearsals January-March while we prepare for our 2024 musical!

Choruses will begin rehearsals the week of **SEPTEMBER 18th**.

Chorus also takes January and February off for the musical.

Your child will receive a detailed rehearsal schedule at their first rehearsal.

Fees:

All instrumentalists: \$50 per month, billed through FACTS (you will be charged October-May)

There is no fee for Festival Chorus or Women's Choir.

RENTAL INFORMATION AND SUPPLIES

Instrumental music students will require:

- Instrument
- String players: rosin, (a set of extra strings is recommended), Cellists should get a "stopper" or strap for the floor.
- Winds/Brass: cork grease/valve oil, cleaning cloth, **reeds** (size 1.5 for beginners) or mouthpiece; saxophones will need a neck strap (rental shop should provide this)
- Percussion: Size 5A drumsticks with wooden tip and a practice pad
- A music stand for home practice (not required, but recommend)

Folder and ensemble music will be provided at the first lesson and are included with tuition. All beginners will receive their lesson books at their first lesson.

PREFERRED RENTAL SHOPS:

For Winds/Brass:

Twin Village Music (44 Central Ave in Lancaster, 716-683-4879)
 Hamburg Music Center (4433 Southwestern Blvd in Hamburg, 716-649-6660)
 Limelite Music (706 Main St. in East Aurora, 716-652-7539)

For Strings:

Twin Village Music (44 Central Ave in Lancaster, 716-683-4879)
 Holden's Violin Shop (4359 Clark St. in Hamburg, 716-649-5937)
 Hamburg Music Center (4433 Southwestern Blvd in Hamburg, 716-649-6660)
 Monaco's Violin Shop (55 Crosspoint Pwky in Getzville 716-688-8600)
 Limelite Music (706 Main St. in East Aurora, 716-652-7539)

Great online retailer for string instruments: www.sharmusic.com

*Monaco's is my personal luthier and they are PHENOMENAL. Definitely worth the drive. **DO NOT RENT STRING INSTRUMENTS FROM MUSIC AND ARTS.** They are not renting quality string instruments at this time. I also do not recommend buying instruments from Amazon.

**If your child chooses to study the *harp*, you can rent from Lyon and Healy directly at

<https://www.lyonhealy.com/rental-program/> or via the Virginia Harp Center at

<https://www.vaharpcenter.com/>

I recommend contacting the music shops earlier rather than later!

Music Enrollment Form

Please complete the following form and have it returned to Mrs. Williams or Miss Schmarder by **September 15th, 2023**. We will then reach out to you for follow up.

We are striving to find the instrument that will be most successful for your child and also looking for good balance within the ensembles (the earlier you return your form, the more likely you are to get your first choice). If your student is continuing study, please indicate below.

Student's Name: _____

Grade (fall 2023): _____

Parent Contact Name: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Parent Email: _____

_____ sign me up for Remind updates

Please check as appropriate:

_____ please enroll my child in CHORUS

_____ please enroll my child in WOMEN'S CHOIR

_____ please enroll my child in GRADE 3 BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL

_____ please enroll my child in GRADE 4-8 BAND or ORCHESTRA

Instrument First choice: _____

Instrument Second choice: _____

_____ check here if continuing study or transferring from another school/program

I _____ have reviewed the procedures for band, chorus, and orchestra with my child and will allow them to participate for the 2023-2024 school year.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____