

# NATIVITY SCHOOL MUSIC SIGN-UP PACKET 2024-2025



## CHORUS ORCHESTRA

Grades 3-8

Dear Nativity Families:

As you look forward to the 2024-2025 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. Students 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/February. 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 progress rubric 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. Students interested in band will have the opportunity to sign up in September through the Paul Effman service.

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, and various school Mass celebrations. Other special events may include Christmas Caroling and competitions (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 one morning a week. We may add a men's group if there is interest.

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](mailto:rwilliams@nativityschool.net)

Grace and Peace,

Mrs. Williams

# Instruments, Scheduling, and Fees

## *Instruments to choose from:*

### **Orchestra:**

Violin

Viola

'Cello

Bass

Guitar

Harp

Piano (prior experience recommended)

If you are interested in band instruments, please refer to the information from Paul Effman Music Service.

## **Schedule:**

Grades 3-8 Orchestra: Lessons-once a week during the school day; group rehearsals-Thursday after school 2:30-3:30pm (November-December/February-May)

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

Grade 6-8 Women's Choir: Wednesday mornings 7:45-8:15am

**WE MAY RUN A MEN'S CHOIR ON THURSDAY MORNINGS IF THERE IS INTEREST**

We will begin lessons the week of **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th**, after school rehearsals for band/morning rehearsals for orchestra will begin on the week of **MONDAY, November 4th**.

**Band and orchestra will have no after school/before school rehearsals mid-December through February break while we prepare for our 2025 musical!**

Choruses will begin rehearsals the week of **SEPTEMBER 16th**.

**Chorus also takes December through February off for the musical.**

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

Please note that Chorus *\*may\** participate in field trips this year, depending on the academic schedule.

**Concert Dates: December 5th, 2024 at 6:30pm and May 6th, 2025 at 6:30pm**

## **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.
- 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.

### PREFERRED RENTAL SHOPS:

For Violins, Violas, Celli, Basses, and Guitars:

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](http://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.** The quality of string instruments is not consistent 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 by **September 13th, 2024**. 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 2024): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ sign me up for Remind updates

Please check as appropriate:

\_\_\_\_\_ please enroll my child in FESTIVAL CHORUS

\_\_\_\_\_ please enroll my child in WOMEN'S CHOIR

\_\_\_\_\_ please enroll my child in 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 2024-2025 school year.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_