

NATIVITY SCHOOL MUSIC SIGN-UP PACKET

Grades 3-8

2025-2026



**CHORUS
ORCHESTRA
JAZZ
BAND**

Dear Nativity Families:

As you look forward to the 2025-2026 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 participate in one group rehearsal a week, with extra ensemble classes before or after school during concert seasons. These students will perform at the Christmas Concert, Spring Concerts, and at school mass celebrations. **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 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, 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.** Girls in 6th-8th grades also have the opportunity to sing in Women's Choir, which meets one day a week during the school day.

We use Google Classroom to share recordings and information 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:

Violin	Oboe
Viola	Alto Saxophone
'Cello	French Horn
Bass	Trumpet
Harp	Trombone
Flute	Baritone
Clarinet	Percussion
Piano (prior experience recommended, only 1 pianist per grade level)	

Schedule:

Grades 3-8 Orchestra/Band/Jazz: Lessons-once a week during the school week; group rehearsals as needed-Friday before school 7:40-8:10am

Grades 3-8 Chorus: Tuesday afternoons, 2:15-3:15pm

Grade 6-8 Women's Choir: Thursdays during 7th period

Beginners: Wednesdays before school, 7:40-8:10am

We will begin lessons the week of **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th**, and instrumental students will begin morning group rehearsals the week of **MONDAY, October 20th**. **Band and orchestra will have no after school/before school rehearsals mid-December through February break while we prepare for our 2026 musical!**

Choruses will begin rehearsals the week of **SEPTEMBER 15th**.

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 to competitions this year, depending on the academic schedule.

**Concert Dates: December 2nd, 2025 at 6:30pm (all groups)
May 5th, 2026 (choruses) and/or May 7th, 2026 (instrumental groups/pianists) at 6:30pm**

Fees:

All instrumentalists: \$55 per month, billed through FACTS (you will be charged September-May)

There is no fee for Festival Chorus or Women's Choir, but there is a \$13 uniform fee for new members.

RENTAL INFORMATION AND SUPPLIES

Instrumental music students will require:

- Instrument
- String: rosin, (a set of extra strings is recommended), Cellists/Basses should get a "stopper" or strap for the floor.
- Winds and Brass: cork grease, reeds, valve oil
- 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 All Instruments:

Twin Village Music (44 Central Ave in Lancaster, 716-683-4879)

Monaco's Violin Shop (55 Crosspoint Pwky in Getzville 716-688-8600)-strings only

Limelite Music (706 Main St. in East Aurora, 716-652-7539)

Music and Arts (4190 N Buffalo Street in Orchard Park, 716-662-9533)-band only

Nativity has a very limited amount of instruments available to rent. Please contact Mrs. Williams if you have any questions.

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.** 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 10th, 2025**. 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 2025): _____

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/BAND/JAZZ

Instrument First choice: _____

Instrument Second choice: _____

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

I _____ have reviewed the procedures for chorus and/or orchestra with my child and will allow them to participate for the 2025-2026 school year.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____