

NATIVITY SCHOOL MUSIC SIGN-UP PACKET

Grades 3-8

2026-2027



**CHORUS
ORCHESTRA
JAZZ
BAND**

Dear Nativity Families:

As you look forward to the 2026-2027 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 lesson one morning a week, with extra ensemble classes after school during concert seasons. These students will perform at the Christmas Concert and 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 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 and Spring Concert. 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
Viola
'Cello
Bass
Harp

Flute (by instructor permission)
Clarinet (by instructor permission)
Percussion
Brass (by instructor permission)

Piano (prior experience recommended, we try to only assign 1 pianist per grade level)

Schedule:

Grades 3-8 Instrumentalists: Lessons-once a week from 7:40-8:10am
group rehearsals as needed after school

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

Grade 6-8 Women's Choir: once per week during the school day

We will begin lessons the week of **SEPTEMBER 14th**.

Choruses will begin rehearsals the week of **SEPTEMBER 21st**.

Chorus will take Mid December-January off and resume in February.

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

Please note that Chorus will likely participate in field trips to competitions this year, depending on the academic schedule.

Concert Dates:

December 8th, 2026 (during the school day)

Instrumental Groups: morning concert

Women's Choir and Festival Chorus: afternoon concert

January 14th, 2027 3:00pm Instrumental Recital (pianists and any instrumental soloists)

May 6th, 2027 (instrumental groups)

May 13th, 2027 (all choirs) at 6:30pm

Fees:

All instrumentalists: \$25 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!