

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for the program?

All students in 4th and 5th grade are eligible.

My child did not play an instrument last year in 4th grade. Can he/she start an instrument in 5th grade?

Yes! They will in a class with other beginning students on their instrument.

Which Instruments are offered?

Beginning lessons are given on Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Violin, Viola, and Cello. Level 2 Students in 5th grade may also study Alto Saxophone or F Horn with teacher approval.

My son/daughter played an instrument last year. Should they play the same instrument this year or switch to a different one?

Students experience the most success when they stick with the same instrument for a 2nd year. Please encourage your child not to switch unless he/she would like to change to a similar instrument (clarinet to saxophone, violin to viola, trumpet to f horn).

How do I know if my child will be successful?

Students and parents should discuss the need to practice on a regular basis, work through the challenges of a new activity, and to keep up with class work missed during the weekly lesson.

When do lessons meet?

Lessons are given once a week for 30 minutes during the school day. Lessons at Woodfield are on **Wednesdays**. Students are taught in like-instrument groups.

When and where can instruments and supplies be purchased or rented?

Please wait to rent or purchase an instrument until you receive documentation stating which instrument your child is suited for. Beginning students should RENT an instrument for their first year of study. Students will be provided with a list of supplies needed and a list of local music stores. If you choose to purchase an instrument, beware of deals that seem too good to be true. For the most part, you will get what you pay for, and cheap instruments don't often last through even one school year.

How much should my child practice?

Students should try to practice about 10 minutes every day, or 15-20 minutes every other day. As lessons are only once a week, home practice is *essential* for their success and improvement.

When will my child start lessons?

- 1st – beginning students will be “interviewed” to determine which instrument they will have the most success with.
- 2nd - registration packets will be sent home with all students.
- 3rd - lessons will begin on September 25th or October 2nd, depending on registration forms

Will my child perform in a concert?

Yes! All 4th and 5th grade instrumental music students play a concert at the end of the school year. This year's concert is on **May 14th**. PLEASE put this date on your calendar!