

Elementary Orchestra Handbook

2022 - 2023

Arbor View, Briar Glen, Park View, and Westfield Schools

Ms. Kristi Kline and Mr. Andrew Ladendorf, Orchestra Directors



Dear District 89 Orchestra Parents:

Welcome to the world of orchestra! This handbook contains all of the basics and need-to-know facts for the entire school year.

Playing a string instrument can provide many years of enjoyment and growth for your young musician. There are many opportunities for orchestral participation throughout their K-12 education and into college! Playing a string instrument is fun, socially engaging, rewarding, and yes, sometimes a challenge (as everything in the learning process often is). Participating in the school orchestra program contributes to overall “well-roundedness” that colleges and universities look for in prospective students – and scholarships are always a possibility!

Our Philosophy: We believe that every student is capable of becoming a skilled musician. We believe that the benefits of a music education are many and include an opportunity to meet and perform with a diverse group of students, learn a craft, and appreciate a wide range of musical styles and cultures.

Musical organizations, such as the elementary orchestra, can teach these same ideals. Each musician has his or her own part to play for the good of the group, but performing music opens up multiple avenues for creativity and self-expression.

Our Goals:

- To provide all students with a worthwhile and fun musical experience
- To develop a sense of responsibility to a group
- To teach the critical thinking skills evident in all musicians
- To develop a life-long appreciation and love of music and music-making
- To foster student growth in their musical craft, regardless of ability
- To maximize student learning potential

The main ingredients for a successful orchestra experience are your encouragement and patience. **Your child will not be successful without your collaboration and support with us.**

We are looking forward to working with you and your child, and we cannot wait for our most exciting year ever!

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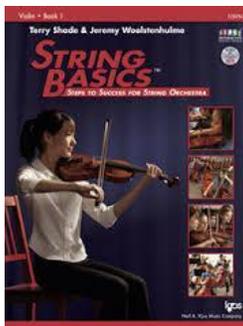
Required Materials and Expenses

1. Instrument: Austin's Violin Shop and Seman Violins are music stores that will provide string instrument rentals for your child. We have a good working relationship with these vendors and they visit our school district on a weekly basis. The high quality of their instruments, the service of their staff, and their pricing make either of these two stores the best choice for providing your child with an instrument.

***For your convenience:** Austin's Violin Shop and Seman Violins service our school district and can deliver instruments and accessories at any time.

****If you have financial difficulty, we have a limited number of school instruments and sizes that can be rented. Please contact Mr. Ladendorf or Ms. Kline as soon as possible. All information is confidential****

2. Required Method Book: All 5th grade students should have this method book for their lessons. All 4th grade students will receive this book in the Spring of their first year in orchestra. The method book series for our elementary curriculum is **String Basics Book 1**. Please make sure you have the correct book for your child's instrument.



3. School District Fee for Elementary Orchestra: \$80.00 which can be paid through your district account on MySchoolBucks.com or through your school's secretary. This fee must be paid before the first lesson.

4. Folding Music Stand – needed for practicing at home: A folding music stand is required for home practice so students will play with correct posture. This can be purchased with your rental. The teachers will show your child how to use it and adjust it to the proper height.

5. Cloth/Towel: To put in your child's case to wipe off rosin. This will help the students keep the instrument clean, prevent damage to the varnish, and will keep the strings sounding like new. An old kitchen washcloth will do.

- 6. Rosin:** This will come with your rental. It is necessary for when your child starts playing with the bow.
- 7. Shoulder Rest (violin and viola), Zero-Strap (cello), or Rock-stop (bass):** This is necessary for proper posture. We strongly recommend the Kun or Everest brands for the shoulder rest, because of their durability and cost. All zero-straps and rock-stops work well for cello and bass students as long as they are kept clean.
- 8. Pencil:** Please keep a **pencil** (not pen) in your instrument case or orchestra folder at all times. We write in our music and our method book all the time.
- 9. Technology:** Chromebook or other device to access specific websites (at home). We also highly recommend an additional device (iPod, iPad, iPhone, or other) for specific apps which will help with your child's learning.

Some Recommendations for Music Apps (and websites) for Students -

1. InsTuner  - For tuning (free version available)
2. Cleartune  - For tuning
3. Pro Metronome  - For keeping time and a steady beat (free version available)
4. Tempo  - For keeping time and a steady beat
5. Staff Wars  - For note reading practice
6. Tenuto  - For note reading practice
7. Tonal Energy  - All-in-one app. Has a tuner, pitch generator and metronome.
8. <https://www.classicsforkids.com/>
9. <https://www.musicca.com/>
10. <https://www.therhythmtrainer.com/>
11. <https://metronomeonline.com>
12. <https://theonlinemetronome.com>
13. <https://tuner.ninja>

The Difference Between “*Lessons*”, “*Practicing*”, and “*Rehearsals*”...

Lessons (during the school day)

Every beginning student receives one, thirty-minute lesson each week during the school day. This is when we teach them how to play their instruments and it’s when we can give the best, individualized instruction to your child. Students will miss class-time with their homeroom teacher every week. This schedule is worked out with the classroom teacher and is done with their approval. Students are responsible for catching up with any material or activities missed during their absence from their homeroom.

Lessons will begin the week of **September 6, 2022 for all students**. ALL FEES MUST BE PAID AT THIS TIME. All students need to have their instruments and books by this date.

Practicing (at home)

Practicing is very important to every musician, from the beginner/novice to the advanced professionals and it is defined as musicians playing their music at home and actively working to improve. **Practicing should be done daily, for however many minutes you can set aside.** Without consistent practice, students will learn slower and feel like they’re not making progress.

Rehearsals (after school)

*Rehearsal schedules and locations vary depending on your child’s grade and elementary school.
Please see pages 5 - 7 for details about our after-school orchestra rehearsals.*

Beginning Orchestra Rehearsals - “Primo” Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra students will rehearse together as an orchestra in the spring (March - May). The “Primo Orchestra” will rehearse on Tuesdays from 4:00 - 4:45 PM beginning in March.

Arbor View and Briar Glen Families

Students will rehearse at Arbor View Elementary School in the gymnasium for the *first six rehearsals*. The last two rehearsals before the concert will be a large combined rehearsal with all 4th grade orchestra students at Westfield Elementary School. The calendar/schedule with *all dates is below*.

Please arrive 10 - 15 minutes early to have the instruments tuned and students seated.

Rehearsal Date	Rehearsal Location
March 14	Arbor View
March 21	Arbor View
April 4	Arbor View
April 11	Arbor View
April 18	Arbor View
April 25	Arbor View
May 2	Westfield
May 9	Westfield

***If there is no school or a half day, there is no orchestra.*

We perform one concert each year...

The **Spring Concert** is Friday, May 12, 2023 at
Glenbard South High School.

Times and further details are forthcoming.

It is important to attend rehearsals and concerts for the full experience. We will do our best to help with carpool arrangements. *The district does not provide bus transportation for orchestra rehearsals.* Any conflicts due to after school activities/events need to be communicated as soon as possible.

Beginning Orchestra Rehearsals - “Primo” Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra Students will rehearse together as an orchestra in the spring (March - May). The “Primo Orchestra” will rehearse on Tuesdays from 4:10 - 4:55 PM beginning in March.

Park View and Westfield Families

Students will rehearse at Westfield Elementary School in the gymnasium for the *first six rehearsals*. The last two rehearsals before the concert will be a large combined rehearsal with all 4th grade orchestra students at Westfield Elementary School. The calendar/schedule with *all dates is below*.

Please arrive 10 - 15 minutes early to have the instruments tuned and students seated.

Rehearsal Date	Rehearsal Location
March 14	Westfield
March 21	Westfield
April 4	Westfield
April 11	Westfield
April 18	Westfield
April 25	Westfield
May 2	Westfield
May 9	Westfield

***If there is no school or a half day, there is no orchestra.*

We perform one concert each year...

The **Spring Concert** is Friday, May 12, 2023 at Glenbard South High School.

Times and further details are forthcoming.

It is important to attend rehearsals and concerts for the full experience. We will do our best to help with carpool arrangements. *The district does not provide bus transportation for orchestra rehearsals.* Any conflicts due to after school activities/events need to be communicated as soon as possible.

5th Grade Rehearsals - "Prelude" Orchestra

5th Grade Orchestra Students will rehearse together as an orchestra in the fall and spring. "Prelude Orchestra" rehearses on **Mondays** at **Glen Crest Middle School** from **4:00 - 4:45 PM**

*****Please note:** There are no rehearsals in January and February.

Please arrive 10 - 15 minutes early to have the instruments tuned and students seated.

Rehearsal Date	Rehearsal Location
October 24	Glen Crest
November 7	Glen Crest
November 14	Glen Crest
November 21	Glen Crest
November 28	Glen Crest
December 5	Glen Crest
December 12	Glen Crest
March 6	Glen Crest
March 13	Glen Crest
March 20	Glen Crest
April 3	Glen Crest
April 10	Glen Crest
April 17	Glen Crest
May 1	Glen Crest
May 8	Glen Crest

***If there is no school or a half day, there is no orchestra.*

We perform two concerts each year...

The **Winter Concert** is December 14, 2022 at Glenbard South High School.

The **Spring Concert** is Friday, May 12, 2023 at Glenbard South High School.

It is important to attend rehearsals and concerts for the full experience. We will do our best to help with carpool arrangements.

The school district does not provide bus transportation for orchestra rehearsals.

*****Any conflicts due to after school activities/events need to be communicated as soon as possible.**

Concert/Performance Dress Code

All students are required to dress up for our concerts.

Option 1: White on top, black on bottom. All clothing must be formal (i. e. no T-shirts, polo shirts, jeans, sweats, shorts, sneakers, flip-flops, etc...). If a student wears a button down shirt, a black neck tie is required. If a student wears a skirt or a dress, the hem should be below the knees. If the hem is above the knees, the student must wear black tights or leggings.

Option 2: All black. All clothing must be formal (i. e. no T-shirts, polo shirts, jeans, sweats, shorts, sneakers, flip-flops, etc...). If a student wears a button down shirt, a black neck tie is required. If a student wears a skirt or a dress, the hem should be below the knees. If the hem is above the knees, the student must wear black tights or leggings.

MBA - Music Boosters Association

The MBA is an organization that supports the music program in District 89. They do several activities each year to raise money that enables the music directors to purchase items for the band, chorus, and orchestra in grades K - 8. In the past they have been able to purchase instruments, music, repair instruments, and pay for contest fees and piano accompanists.

Please consider volunteering and donate a few hours of your time to make our music program even better! For more information, please see the D89 MBA Webpage at ccsd89mba.com.

Contact Us

Please add our addresses to your address book so our mails are not marked as “spam”. We also can be reached at our office phones, located at Glen Crest Middle School. We do our best to return all phone calls within 24 hours. Our contact information is below:

Kristi Kline
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 (630) 545-3176



We're also on social media!

Follow us on Facebook (CCSD 89 Orchestras), Twitter (@CCSD89Orch), and Instagram (d89orch)