



Learning for Life

Elementary Orchestra Handbook

2019 - 2020

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!



Kristi Kline

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(630) 545-5517



Andrew Ladendorf

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(630) 545-3176

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 - please purchase with instrument rental: String Basics Book 1 for Violin, Viola, Cello, or Bass - **BOOK 1** (image below)



3. School District Fee for Elementary Orchestra: \$80.00 is payable to "CCSD 89" and should be turned in to your school's main office. This fee must be paid before the first lesson. You may have paid this at online registration; and if you did, you do not need to pay it again.

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 important when it comes to 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.

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 9, 2019 for all students.** ALL FEES MUST BE PAID AT THIS TIME. The cutoff date for starting orchestra lessons is the week of September 16, 2019. All students need to have their instruments and books by this date. **No exceptions.**

Practicing (at home)

Practicing is **very important** to every musician, serious or not. We require **practicing to be done each day, for however many minutes you can set aside (minimum of 5 minutes)**. Without consistent practice, students will not grow or learn new skills on their instruments. Practicing is defined as students playing their music home and actively working to improve their own work. Also, without consistent practice, learning a string instrument becomes **very difficult and frustrating** which leads many students to drop.

Rehearsals (after school)

*Rehearsal schedules and locations vary depending on your child's grade and elementary school.
Please see pages 4 - 6 for details about our after-school orchestra rehearsals.*

4th Grade Rehearsals - "Primo" Orchestra

4th Grade Orchestra Students will rehearse together as an orchestra in the fall and spring. "Primo Orchestra" rehearses on Tuesdays from 4:10 - 4:55 PM.

4th Grade Arbor View and Briar Glen Families

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

*****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 15	Arbor View
October 22	Arbor View
October 29	Arbor View
November 12	Arbor View
November 19	Westfield
December 3	Westfield
March 10	Arbor View
March 17	Arbor View
March 24	Arbor View
April 7	Arbor View
April 14	Arbor View
April 21	Arbor View
April 28	Westfield
May 5	Westfield

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

If on the rare chance rehearsal is canceled due to the director's absence, we will have a make-up rehearsal on Thursday that same week.

We perform two concerts each year...

The **Winter Concert** is December 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM at Glen Crest Middle School.

The **Spring Concert** is May 7, 2020 at 7:30 PM at Glenbard South High School.

4th Grade Rehearsals - "Primo" Orchestra

4th Grade Orchestra Students will rehearse together as an orchestra in the fall and spring. "Primo Orchestra" rehearses on Tuesdays from 4:10 - 4:55 PM.

4th Grade Park View and Westfield Families

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

*****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 15	Westfield
October 22	Westfield
October 29	Westfield
November 12	Westfield
November 19	Westfield
December 3	Westfield
March 10	Westfield
March 17	Westfield
March 24	Westfield
April 7	Westfield
April 14	Westfield
April 21	Westfield
April 28	Westfield
May 5	Westfield

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

If on the rare chance rehearsal is canceled due to the director's absence, we will have a make-up rehearsal on Thursday that same week.

We perform two concerts each year...

The **Winter Concert** is December 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM at Glen Crest Middle School.

The **Spring Concert** is May 7, 2020 at 7:30 PM at Glenbard South High School.

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 21	Glen Crest
October 28	Glen Crest
November 4	Glen Crest
November 11	Glen Crest
November 18	Glen Crest
November 25	Glen Crest
December 2	Glen Crest
December 9	Glen Crest
March 2	Glen Crest
March 9	Glen Crest
March 16	Glen Crest
March 23	Glen Crest
April 6	Glen Crest
April 13	Glen Crest
April 20	Glen Crest
April 27	Glen Crest
May 4	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 10, 2019 at 7:30 PM at Glen Crest Middle School.

The **Spring Concert** is May 7, 2020 at 6:00 PM 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 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 shirt, black skirt/pants, black or white tights, black dress shoes. A black dress is also acceptable. **The hem of skirts and dresses must fall below the knees, when seated.**

Option 2: White shirt, black necktie (can be a clip-on), black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes.

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. They have also given scholarships to music camps during the summer!

Volunteers are always needed to help organize and participate with these events. Please considering volunteering and give a few hours of your time to make our music program ever better. For more information, please see the membership form on page 9.

Contact Us

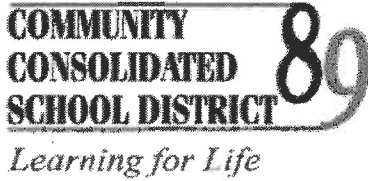
Both Ms. Kline and Mr. Ladendorf frequently use mass e-mail as a communication tool. Please add our addresses to your address book so our mails are not marked as "spam". We also can be reached at our office phones, located at Glen Crest Middle School. We do our best to return all phone calls within 24 hours. Our contact information is below:

Kristi Kline
kkline@ccsd89.org
 (630) 545-5517

Andrew Ladendorf
aladendorf@ccsd89.org
 (630) 545-3176

We're also on social media!

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



DATE: August 2019
TO: All Parents of Elementary School Orchestra Students.
FROM: CCSD 89

The Board of Education has determined the cost for the elementary school orchestra program for the 2019 - 2020 is \$80.00. For this fee, your child is provided the opportunity to participate in weekly group lessons and, school and district-wide performances.

A check payable to CCSD 89 in the amount of \$80.00 must be received prior to your child's participation in the program. Please send your check directly to the office of your child's school. **NSF checks are considered unpaid fees.**

Parents wishing to discuss a waiver of fees or an alternative payment plan due to financial reasons should contact the school principal. Other questions or concerns should also be directed to the principal.

In advance, thank you for your cooperation.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ORCHESTRA PROGRAMS

Please complete this portion of the form and return it with your payment to the main office of your child's school. Thank you.

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Fees are for participation in the following program:

- Primo Orchestra (Grade 4) Prelude Orchestra (Grade 5)

I understand that requests for refunds or fees are only accepted for beginning band and orchestra students who drop the program prior to ***September 30, 2019.*** Parents are asked to submit such requests in writing. Please have all fees returned to your school's office by ***September 9, 2019.***

Parent Signature

Date

2019-2020 Membership

Music Boosters Association

Support music education in D89!



WE HAVE AN EXEMPLARY MUSIC PROGRAM IN D89 AND THE MBA IS NEEDED TO FUND:

- Scholarships for instrument rental
- New instruments and supplemental music materials for students
- Transportation and fees for competitions
- Accompanists for music concerts
- General support for new music & materials for the PK-8 music staff
- Replacing or repairing instruments in music classrooms

PLEASE SUPPORT MUSIC CLASSES, BAND, ORCHESTRA & CHORUS AT ONE OF THESE LEVELS:

Student/Senior	\$15-\$35	Section Leader	\$76-100
Family/Individual	\$36-\$50	Patron	\$101-\$150
Noteworthy Donor	\$51-\$75	Director	\$151 +

Check Payable to: D89 MBA

Name for Concert Program: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

(Please send payment and membership form to school with your child and give to any music teacher)

Thank you for your support of D89 music students and staff!

D89 Music Boosters HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE! OUR PAGE CONTAINS ALL THE LATEST DETAILS OF THE MBA, ORCHESTRA, CHOIR AND BAND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULES, PHOTOS, VIDEOS, AND MUCH MORE! BE SURE TO VISIT, FOLLOW, AND LIKE OUR PAGE.

https://www.facebook.com/CCSD89MBA/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Interested in being a part of D89 Music Boosters? Please contact Co-Presidents Dawn Cassata (dawncassata@yahoo.com), Jamie Goldman (Jamie.goldman@ey.com) or any music staff member with questions, comments or ideas.