

Voorhees Instrumental Music Program

2015-2016

The Voorhees Township Music Department offers 4th and 5th grade students the opportunity to participate in the Elementary Band or Orchestra Program at each elementary school. Students can choose to play the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, violin, viola, cello, percussion or mallets.

First Year Students and Second Year Students

Students receive a group lesson on their instrument during the school day at no cost, for half an hour each week. They also have the opportunity to participate in a school ensemble class (once a week at 2:45 – 3:15) to prepare for the Spring Concert in each school.

How to Obtain an Instrument

Instruments and lesson books are NOT provided by the school district. An instrument in good working condition must be obtained by Oct. 5, 2015.

Option # 1: Rent to Own

The Music Department, working in conjunction with [NEMC](http://www.nemc.com), offers a "Rent to Own" program. Families can choose to rent their child's instrument for a monthly or yearly fee. After paying the fee for a predetermined length, the student then owns the instrument. NEMC offers quality instruments and outstanding service! All transactions and repair exchanges can be done at your child's elementary school. We suggest ordering online at www.nemc.com for faster service.

The benefit to the rent to own option is: the ability to stop payment on the instrument if your child decides to stop playing. You would notify the company directly and arrange pick-up of the instrument at your child's school. Your financial commitment has ended once the company receives the instrument.

Option #2: A Borrowed Instrument

Parents have the choice of providing an instrument for their child from other sources. Maybe a family member has an instrument to give to the child. There are a lot of good instruments sitting somewhere that would be perfectly suitable for student use. The music staff can take a look at an instrument to make sure it is in playable condition. As long as the instrument is in good playing condition, this can be a fine alternative to renting an instrument. Playing an instrument that doesn't work well is one of the main reasons for children quitting an instrument.

Option # 3: Buying From another Vendor

Buying an instrument from another vendor is another option. Not all instruments are suitable for student use. If the deal is too good to be true, watch out! Some lower cost instruments play poorly and are very difficult to repair. Please make sure the company is willing to stand by the warranty, offer repairs, and a loaner instrument to use while the instrument is being repaired.

Please be careful when purchasing an instrument. Making a decision on price only, can cost you much more in the long run

Accessories and Damage/Repair Fee

Along with the instrument, **your child will need a book and a music stand for home practice.** These are separate of the instrument price. They can be bought from the music companies when you rent an instrument. The music stand can stay at home. Each school has music stands for your child to use.

Please make sure to include the purchase of the lesson book (Sound Innovations) and music stand on the order form.

We strongly suggest adding the Damage Waiver Fee to your NEMC rental. (Unless you purchase the Damage Waiver, you are responsible for all loss or damage to the instrument. Without D/W, minimum repair charge is \$75.00. This cannot be added later to your rental.)

Voorhees Township Instrumental Music

Dear Band/Orchestra Students and Parents,

Welcome to Instrumental Music! Learning to play a musical instrument is exciting, yet challenging. With consistent practice students will see themselves improve as musicians. Our goals are to have fun, enjoy playing a musical instrument and acquiring a good basic knowledge of that instrument that will ensure success if they continue in middle school. The discipline and commitment the students acquire from successfully participating in the music program can be applied to everything they do in the future.

Attached is information on obtaining an instrument, our lesson book, **Sound Innovations Method Book 1** w/CD and DVD and the other necessary items to help your child become a successful musician. You will find detailed information about our program below.

- Students are pulled from class once a week for a half hour lesson. They will not be taken out of Math, Specials, or other “pull-out” classes. They are expected to keep up on all class work missed while at lessons and ensemble.
- Please remind your child to bring his/her instrument on lesson days. Even missing only a few lessons can set a student back considerably.
- Please be advised of the district policy about participating in orchestra and band. In order for your child to play he/she MUST be doing well in all of their subjects in school. I will check your child's grade with his/her teacher each marking period. If your child is failing in one or more subjects, he/she must withdraw from band until the grades are brought up to passing.
- Home practice is vital to a students' musical success. Encourage your child to practice every day for about 10 to 15 minutes. After the excitement of playing a new instrument wears off, a little prodding on your part may be needed to get your child to practice. Adherence to a regular practice schedule is essential for a student's musical development and achievement.
- Your child should practice in a room away from the TV and radio. During home practice your child should review materials covered in class and prepare for the next lesson. Please, do not hesitate to give encouragement when you begin to recognize songs or improvement!
- Performances this year will take place in May. Flyers will go home prior to the concert informing you of dates and times.
- There are many exciting things happening in the music program within the Voorhees Township School District. We hope you and your child will enjoy being a part of our outstanding program.
- Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sharon Clarke, Clarke@voorhees.k12.nj.us (E. T. Hamilton and Signal Hill Bands)

Mike Farrell, MFarrell@voorhees.k12.nj.us (Kresson and Osage Bands)

Dan Grippi, Grippi@voorhees.k12.nj.us (Kresson, Osage and Signal Hill Orchestra)

Matt Totor, Totor@voorhees.k12.nj.us (E. T. Hamilton Orchestra)

Voorhees Township Elementary Instrumental Music Department

WHAT DO I NEED FOR BAND?

- Instrument
- Sound Innovations Band Method Book 1 w/CD.
- Soft cloth; handkerchiefs, or any type of cotton cloth to wipe off your instrument.
- Reeds size 2 or 2 ½ (Woodwind Players) & Reed Cases
- Valve oil (Brass Player)
- Cleaning Swab (Woodwind Players)/ white handkerchief for flutes
- Pencil; keep this in your case
- Folding music stand: stays at home for practice.
- Drum Sticks and Mallets (Percussion/Mallet Players).

Please have all of the above listed materials for our first class.

DO NOT PURCHASE INSTRUMENTS FROM PAWN SHOPS, WAREHOUSE STORES OR INTERNET SITES!! Contact me for suggested brands to rent or purchase from music companies or for me to inspect a used instrument.

Expectations for Band Students

- Students are to be quiet in the hallways and are to enter and leave the classroom in an orderly manner.
 - Students are not to leave their classroom early for band/lessons unless Mrs. Clarke has authorized a change.
 - Do not touch another person's instrument.
 - Remain in class until you are dismissed.
 - Make up all missed class work.
 - Class participation is expected 100% of the time. Have everything you need for each class: instrument, book, cloth, pencil, reeds, valve or slide oil, etc.
 - Students are expected to come to band prepared. This means PRACTICE! Your daily practice is band homework. (15- 20 minutes per evening; 4-5 days a week)
 - Instruments and music are not to be left at school on non-band/lesson days. Students are responsible for music and materials issued to him/her.
 - Students are required to attend the Spring Concert. In addition to being part of your child's grade, the band is a team and cannot perform effectively with members missing. Therefore, it is vitally important to the band that every member assumes his/her responsibility. Attendance is mandatory, except in cases of an emergency, illness, or prior arrangement with the band teacher. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for that concert, seriously jeopardizing a passing grade in band for that semester.
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Please sign and return this page to the band director.

We have read and agree to follow the guidelines outlined in the Elementary Band Handbook.

Print student's name and instrument:

(Student's signature) Date

(Parent's signature) Date