

MAIL MERGE

Dear Family of **MAIL MERGE**:

*Your Instrument
and Start Date ↓*

Welcome to Instrumental Music at Cascadia! **Your child has been registered to learn the _____ in the _____ class on _____ at _____ with Ms _____.** This class will meet for the first time on _____. Start dates are different for classes on different days of the week and students of different levels, so don't be confused if a friend has a different start date! In this packet you will find:

- Information on instrument rental
- List of required books and supplies
- Events to mark on your calendar

← This is important!

Instrument: You are responsible for providing an instrument for your child – you will find a list of area stores later in this packet which can assist you with your rental needs. Please contact us for more specific recommendations if you need them. **We highly recommend that you purchase a full insurance plan with the rental of the instrument.** Additionally, we recommend precautions if you are considering purchasing, rather than renting, an instrument (see page 2).

Books: Most students need a music book, which can be purchased at most instrument rental stores. If the cost of the book is prohibitive, please let us know.

Beginning Violin, Viola, Cello: *Essential Elements Book 1 (for your instrument)*

String Ensemble Violin, Viola, and Cello: *Essential Elements Book 1 (for your instrument)*

Beginning Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet and Trombone Students (both 4th and 5th grade beginners):
Standard of Excellence Book 1 (for your instrument)

Concert Band Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, and Trombone Students: *Standard of Excellence Book 1 (for your instrument - from last year)*

Chamber Ensemble Students do not require a book

Supplies: There are certain supplies required for each instrument in addition to the book – see page 3 for this list. Please make sure these are marked with your student's name. This way we can make sure materials are returned when they get lost at school!

Funding: The PTA covers 85% of the cost of the instrumental music program! To offset this cost, the PTA is asking for voluntary \$100 contributions from participating families. Please see page 5 for a letter from the PTA and instructions on how to give. Thank you for supporting this program!

Mark your Calendars! We have separate evening events for each instrument group:

Monday April 27, 2020, 7:00 pm – Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone Students of both levels

Wednesday April 29, 2020, 7:00 pm – Violin, Viola, Cello Students of all levels

If you have any questions about the Instrumental Music Program not answered in this packet, feel free to contact us. You can generally expect a response to email within two school days. Thank you very much for your support!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Knighton (ejknighton@seattleschools.org)

Anna Baughman (acbaughman@seattleschools.org)

Beware of VSOs!

(Violin/Viola-Shaped Objects)

Or, why to look twice when you see any instrument on sale for \$99

Each year families wonder about purchasing instruments rather than having the ongoing costs of renting. Renting brings with it the assurance that your instrument will be in good, working condition, and that it can easily be serviced if anything happens; **we highly recommend renting** for your child's first experience with the instrument. Purchasing is of course a choice, but there are some important caveats to keep in mind. This is particularly true for violins and violas. There are so many VSOs (violin/viola-shaped objects) posing as viable instruments on the market, and **inadvertently purchasing one of these will make your child's learning experience very difficult.**

Not all string instruments are made equal. Violins and violas are made of organic materials (wood, horsehair, etc) and each component has a direct impact on the sound. In addition, the quality of the tuning screws, pegs, and bow-tightening mechanisms directly impact a student's every-day experience with these instruments.

There are \$100 instruments on the market which are shiny and come with lots of accessories, and families snap these up because they are cheap. **But, even with my [Mrs. Knighton's] college degree in violin performance I can't get a good sound out of these instruments or get their strings to stay in tune. No kid should learn under those conditions!** When a student must struggle with equipment that does not work, the student's experience with the instrument is immediately negatively impacted.

Every year, I see a direct correlation between VSOs and low-performing students.

If you are considering purchasing an instrument for your student rather than renting, please consider contacting me (ejknighton@seattleschools.org) for recommendations. I'd be glad to point you toward some budget-friendly, *good quality* options which will set your student up for success on the instrument.

MAIL MERGE

Supplies – by Instrument

Flute: cleaning cloth and rod, method book (see first page), pencil. Please mark items with child's name.

Clarinet: cleaning swab (not pad saver), method book (see first page) five or more "number 2" reeds, pencil. Please mark items with child's name. (Students may use stronger reeds if a previous teacher has told them to do so.)

Trumpet: absorbent cloth, valve oil, method book (see first page), pencil. Please mark items with child's name.

Trombone: absorbent cloth, slide oil, method book (see first page), pencil. Please mark items with child's name.

Violin/Viola: soft cleaning rag, rosin, shoulder rest (preferably **Kun** brand), method book (see first page), pencil, and an SN-8 Snark Digital Tuner (the matte black one with a yellow or gold button; available in local stores or online). See notes below regarding shoulder rest and tuner. Please mark items with child's name.

Cello: soft cleaning rag, rosin, end pin holder, method book (see first page), pencil, SN-8 Snark Digital Tuner (the matte black one with yellow or gold button; available in local stores or online). See notes below regarding the tuner. Please mark items with child's name.

And did I mention....a PENCIL???

A few helpful notes:

- Please mark all items with child's name. This saves us time in class and mitigates things getting lost at school. It's always the stuff without names that gets lost....
- While not required, I do recommend purchasing a music stand for use in practice at home.
- I do not recommend purchasing a commercial "cleaning kit" – your child will be taught how to care for his/her instrument with the supplies listed above. "Cleaning Kits" include lots of extra stuff you don't need.
- For violin and viola shoulder rests: please choose to pay the extra for the **Kun Brand**. These are absolutely worth the price and do make a difference in playing comfort as they are adjustable in many directions for the best fit for your student. Please do not purchase an Everest rest: these are too tall for most fourth and fifth grade students.
- Regarding digital "Snark" tuners for violin, viola, and cello – please make sure to purchase one of the specific models indicated above. These work by sensing the instrument's vibration, so can be used even in the midst of a whole class playing. We will be using them extensively in class – all year for 2nd year and advanced players, and starting a few months in for beginners. Please do **not** get an SN-5 (shiny black one) – these break much more quickly and do not tune as accurately. (*note: if you have a Snark tuner from last year, you may need to get a new CR2030 battery, which can be purchased at Kennelly Keys, Fred Meyer, Bartells, Walgreens, Home Depot, Amazon.....*)

MAIL MERGE

Local Music Stores (please call ahead for hours and product availability)

Bischofberger Violins (strings only)
1314 East John Street, Seattle, WA 98102
206-324-3119

www.bviolins.com

Ted Brown Music
1006 NE 50th St., Seattle
206-622-0171

www.capitolmusiccenter.com

(please do NOT do the "deliver to school" option. Instrumental music teachers are not at Cascadia every day, and we cannot be responsible for receiving instruments at school.)

Kennelly Keys Music / Lake City
11306 Lake City Way NE
Seattle, WA 98125
206-440-8299 www.kennellykeysmusic.com

Lasley Violins (strings only)
2405 NW Market St., Ste. 201, Seattle 98107
206-378-0233
www.lasleyviolins.com

Metropolitan Music Services
8414 5th Ave. N.E., Seattle 98115
206-729-9299

www.metropolitan-music.com

Oberloh Woodwind and Brass Works
958 North 127th #A, Seattle 98133
206-241-5767

www.oberloh.com

Seattle Sound Repair (band only)
4112 Stone Way N, Seattle 98103
206-659-9023

www.seattlesoundrepair.com

MAIL MERGE



Cascadia PTA
10002 Aurora Ave N.
Ste 36 #244
Seattle, WA 98133-9348

Welcome to Cascadia’s instrumental music program!

Cascadia PTA is requesting a donation of \$100 per participating student to help support Cascadia’s instrumental music program. We do encourage participation for all students, regardless of ability to make this donation.

WHY?

As Cascadia’s participation in instrumental music has grown, so have the costs. Instrumental music is currently one of the largest line items in the Cascadia PTA budget. The PTA will use these donations to ensure that we continue this vibrant program while ensuring that the lower grades are equally supported by our overall budget.

We are asking participating families to make a voluntary contribution of \$100 towards their student’s instrumental music program. We hope that direct family contributions can cover 18% of Cascadia’s instrumental music program costs. The remainder of the PTA’s funding for instrumental music will come through regular donations to our Annual Fund campaign.

HOW?

You can pay by check or online, directly to Cascadia PTA. The instrumental music teachers will NOT be accepting contributions, nor will they be given information about a family’s financial participation.

Online payments help Cascadia PTA streamline its financial processes. You can give through PayPal via this link: <http://tinyurl.com/zb3rbw5>

If you prefer to pay via check, please follow the directions below.

WHAT IF?

Some students sign up for instrumental music and then discover it’s not the right thing for them. They always have the option to disenroll. In such an event, your donation will be rolled into the Annual Fund, where it will support Cascadia PTA’s many learning and enrichment programs.

If you are paying by check, complete this form and return via Kidmail in a sealed envelope, addressed to Cascadia PTA: Instrumental Music.

Student Name: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

___ My check is enclosed, made payable to Cascadia PTA

___ My employer will match this donation

\$100	suggested donation
___	additional contribution
___	Total Payment

MAIL MERGE

(blank for copying)