



Oak Park School District 97 • Instrumental Music Department

August 2012

Dear 4th Grade Families:

As a 4th grader, your student has some new musical opportunities this year!

Every elementary school in our district has a Chorus of 4th and 5th grade students. It meets once per week during the school day. Each school has a different performance schedule, but on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, all of the Chorus students in the district come together at OPRF High School for our Annual Choral Festival. Ask your general music teacher for more details! **If you would like to get a taste before school starts, our summer music camp is August 6-August 17, 2012, and we still have room for interested choristers entering 4th grade. See the attached registration form for more details.**

District 97 also offers beginning classes in **orchestra** and **band** instruments to all interested 4th grade students. Instruments of the orchestra include violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Band instruments are flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, cornet or trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and percussion. The classes will begin during the week of September 10 and will continue throughout the entire school year. Classes are thirty minutes in length and are held during school hours. There is no charge for these classes, but students must provide their own instruments and music books.

The Instrumental Music faculty will visit each elementary school on either Thursday, August 23 or Friday, August 24. We will demonstrate all of the available instruments, and send home a green packet of information. Please keep your eyes open for it!

Students who are interested in learning to play an instrument should come with their parents to one of the following open houses:

Tuesday, August 28, 2012	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Gwendolyn Brooks School
Wednesday, August 29, 2012	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Percy Julian School

In order to enroll for Instrumental Music, you and your student need to complete the three steps below by Friday, August 31 (All of the below will be available at the two open houses):

1. CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT – During the first week of school, 4th graders will see an assembly demonstrating all of the available instruments. At the open house, each student will receive three tickets, which they may exchange to try three instruments. When making a choice, it is important to consider how the instrument sounds, how it feels to play it, and how it will be transported to and from school on lesson days.

2. RENT AN INSTRUMENT – District 97 does not supply the instruments for students. You may sign-up with representatives from Music & Arts Center or Kagan & Gaines Music Company at the open house, or contact Austin Music or another reputable local dealer on your own. If your student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, PING is group that can provide an instrument at a reduced cost.

Although instruments may be rented, purchased, or borrowed, the District 97 instrumental music staff highly recommends that beginning students rent their instruments. Most music merchants will apply the rental fee toward the purchase price of the instrument and will provide instrument repair for their customers. *We specifically warn against buying an instrument from vendors who are not music merchants. These vendors include department store catalogues; discount membership warehouses, and on-line sales.* An instrument purchased in this way may be of low quality and can cause playing problems for the children.

3. FILL OUT D97 ENROLLMENT FORM – This is an online form, and our computer lab will be open at the enrollment nights, or you may access it via the main district web page. Please fill this out AFTER you have arranged to rent an instrument.

District 97 is noted for its excellent music program. Your participation will be a rewarding experience. We hope to see when school starts!

Sincerely,

District 97 Instrumental Music Department

Fernando Carrillo, Sally Friedrich, Vince Greco, Tom Kanwischer,
Sandra Korelc, Brian Shannon, Ericka Shannon, Amy Vogt
Gabrielle Rosenblum, *Coordinator for Instrumental Music*
Pam Wiese, *Coordinator for Vocal/General Music*



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Dear 5th Grade Families:

As a 5th grader, your student has some exciting musical opportunities this year! If you are returning to District 97 you may be familiar with both Chorus and Instrumental Music.

Every elementary school in our district has a Chorus of 4th and 5th grade students. It meets once per week during the school day. Each school has a different performance schedule, but on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, *all* of the Chorus students in the district come together at OPRF High School for our Annual Choral Festival. Ask your general music teacher for more details! **If you would like to get a taste before school starts, our summer music camp is August 6-August 17, 2012, and we still have room for interested choristers entering 5th grade. See the attached registration form for more details.**

District 97 also offers classes in **orchestra** and **band** instruments to all interested 4th and 5th grade students. If your student is returning to the program on the same instrument that they played last year, then they will participate in Intermediate Band or Orchestra. They will have one half-hour small group lesson per week, and one 45-minute full ensemble rehearsal per week. Please fill out the online registration at <http://www.op97.org/instrumental-music/> by Friday, August 31 so that the teachers will have your current contact information and can schedule your student for lessons, beginning the week of September 10. **If returning students would like to get their chops going, our summer music camp is August 6-August 17, 2012, and we still have room for interested band and orchestra students entering 5th grade. See the attached registration form for more details.**

If your student is new to District 97 and would like to start playing an instrument, or if they played last year but are switching instruments, then they should come with their parents to one of the following open houses:

Tuesday, August 28, 2012	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Gwendolyn Brooks School
Wednesday, August 29, 2012	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Percy Julian School

In order to enroll for Instrumental Music, you and your student need to complete the three steps below by Friday, August 31 (All of the below will be available at the two open houses):

- 1. CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT** – During the first week of school, 4th graders will see an assembly demonstrating all of the available instruments. At the open house, each student will receive three tickets, which they may exchange to try three instruments. When making a choice, it is important to consider how the instrument sounds, how it feels to play it, and how it will be transported to and from school on lesson days.
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