



Stratford Public Schools
Department of Fine Arts, Health and Physical Education
Administration Center
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Dear Parents:

This letter is intended as an update about the instrumental music program in the Stratford Public Schools. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school-year, the Music Department will be able to provide more opportunities to students for the study of instrumental music than ever before. Stratford Public Schools will have string instrumental music instruction in grades 4, 5, and 6, in all elementary schools. Stratford Public Schools will continue to provide band instrumental music instruction in grades 4, 5, and 6. Students in both of these instrumental music programs receive one thirty-minute, small-group lesson per week, and one forty-minute ensemble rehearsal per week. Both strings and band will continue to be available to students at the middle and high school levels.

The band instruments available to students are: baritone horn, clarinet, flute, French horn, oboe, percussion (bells and snare drum), saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. The string instruments available to students are: violin, viola, cello, and double-bass. Ultimately, the decision for an instrument for your child rests with you; however, please discuss your options with the instrumental music teacher in your child's school. The teacher will help you determine the correct instrument for your child, based on the child's interests, the size of the child's body and hands, teeth formation and musical achievement in school.

It is the responsibility of the parent to provide an instrument, book, music stand, and instrument supplies for the student. There are several music dealers that regularly serve this area, or you may find others that also provide quality instruments at a reasonable price. Initially, you can anticipate that "renting to own" a new instrument will cost between \$50.00 and \$75.00 dollars for three months, depending on the instrument. Payment after that period is generally monthly. Our associations include:

- Connecticut Band Instrument Services in Stratford (203) 260-5247
- D'Addario Music Center in Stratford (203) 377-1315
- Music and Arts Center of East Hartford (860) 559-6441*
- National Educational Music Company (NEMC) (800) 526-4593*
- Rayburn Music/Route 1 Guitar in Milford (203) 783-9828*

** Denotes company that uses mail-in form and instruments will be delivered to the school*

The decision to participate in the Stratford instrumental music program is a great opportunity for you to sit with your child to discuss personal responsibility, commitment, dedication, and reaching goals. Studies have consistently demonstrated that students who study instrumental music have consistently higher academic achievement in virtually every area. We hope that this letter has helped to answer any questions you may have. If you would like additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the music teachers at your child's school.

Sincerely,

Brian Frazier

Coordinator of Fine Arts, Health & Physical Education