



Join Instrumental Music at GARRETT PARK!



We are about to start another exciting year of instrumental music! Today, fourth and fifth grade students attended an introductory assembly where they saw demonstrations of the instruments that they can choose to study. I hope that your child heard an instrument that they are interested in learning to play this year. Once the attached enrollment form is returned, I will meet with your child and send home the information that you will need in order to obtain an instrument and the necessary book and accessories.

If your child would like to participate in Instrumental Music, please fill out attached and have your child return it to his/her classroom teacher. This form is due THURSDAY, September 10th. After I receive the forms, I will then meet with your child and send home a letter with information that you will need in order to obtain an instrument.



Instrumental Music FAQs:

Who is eligible to participate? All students in grades four and five. There is no charge for weekly instruction. Students may participate in both instrumental music and chorus so long as they keep up with their classwork. Beginners do not need to know how to read music in order to join.

What instruments are taught? Group instruction will be given on **violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and percussion**. Piano, guitar and recorder are not in the instrumental music program.

When are lessons taught? Students meet during the school day in small groups for thirty minutes, once a week on a rotating schedule. They will miss instructional time in their classroom and will be responsible for making up that work. Instrumental music is a graded course that will appear on your child's report card.

Does the school provide instruments? There are a very limited number of instruments available for loan through MCPS to those families who may be unable to afford one. Parents are encouraged to rent an instrument for the first year of instruction from a local music store that is also qualified to make repairs. Please contact Ms. Shupe if you need assistance in obtaining an instrument.



Does the school provide the textbook? MCPS will provide a copy of the textbook, or "method book", that must be returned at the end of the year in good condition. Should your child like to have a personal copy, the book can be purchased online or at the local music store.

Can my child quit Instrumental Music if he/she does not like it? Choosing to learn an instrument is a long-term commitment requiring practice and dedication both in school and at home. Students will be asked to commit for the full 2015-2016 academic year. It is important to encourage your child to persevere through difficulties and encourage them to ask for help if they need it.

My child took Instrumental Music last year, but wants to switch instruments. May he/she do so? It is recommended that students remain on their instrument for the second year of instruction, as one year is generally not a sufficient indicator of a child's success on an instrument. Please contact Ms. Shupe if your child is strongly motivated to begin a different instrument.

What if my child would like to play the saxophone? Returning students may switch to the saxophone so long as they have completed one year of clarinet instruction (or studied saxophone privately). Please keep in mind that students interested in switching will have to be motivated to PRACTICE and adapt quickly to a new instrument so that they may catch up to their peers on the other instruments.

More questions for Ms. Shupe? You may contact me by email at Erin_Shupe@mcpsmd.org. I will also be available at Back-to-School Night to collect forms and answer any questions you may have.

PLEASE DETACH THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN TO SCHOOL BY Thursday, 9/10

DUE BY THURSDAY, 9/10

Garrett Park Instrumental Music Registration Form, 2015-2016

♪♪ Yes, I want to join the band or strings this year! ♪♪

-Please print legibly-

Student's Name: _____

Grade _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

Instrument first choice: _____

Instrument second choice (beginners only): _____

Please check one:

_____ My child is a beginner (no experience playing this instrument)

_____ My child is more advanced (studied instrument last year or studies privately)

Parent/Guardian name(s) (please print): _____

Preferred Email: _____

Student's School Email: _____

Note: Email will be used as the primary form of communication about class schedule information changes as well as concert dates. It is important to use an email that you/your child check regularly so that you remain up to date throughout the year (as the instrumental schedule is prone to change with weather delays, standardized testing dates, etc.)

Preferred Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

