

## CONCORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Elementary Instrumental Music Program 2011-2012



Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

Today your child saw an exciting performance/demonstration about musical opportunities available to him/her through participation in school band. Attached you will find information about the Concord Elementary Instrumental Band Program and how your child will benefit from a commitment to the arts. Also note that the decision to participate in band or orchestra this year may affect the necessary decision between orchestra/band/chorus in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Middle school band students are expected to have studied an instrument for one year prior to enrollment. Performing music in a band or orchestra may become one of the most gratifying and memorable experiences of a student's school career. Here are the steps you can take to get your child involved in this exciting and challenging program:

- Please sign and date all material
- Return Instrument Choice/Expectations Form by Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to an envelope outside of your school's music room.
- Over the summer, contact Music & Arts via their website ([www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)) or by phone (888-731-5396) to rent your child's instrument. Instruments rented from Music & Arts will be at your child's school for their first lesson.

New this year to our instrumental music program: Music & Arts ([www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)) has provided the best terms and pricing for instrument rental to Concord Public School students. More information about instrument rental can be found on page 3.

**Lessons on chosen instruments will begin on the following days:**

<u>School</u>	<u>Lesson start date</u>	<u>Form return date</u>
Alcott	Tues., Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Fri., June 10 <sup>th</sup>
Willard	Wed., Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Fri., June. 10 <sup>th</sup>
Thoreau	Thu., Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fri., June 10 <sup>th</sup>

Students participating in their school music program will expand their education in the arts, acquire skills that will assist their academic success, and be offered opportunities for personal and social growth. Following are guidelines for participation in this elementary instrumental music program. Please take the time to read through them as your child will be held to the standards described therein.

Know that we believe deeply in the power and riches that study in instrumental music offers. We look forward to meeting you and your child and making music together. Please contact either of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Seely ([rseely@colonial.net](mailto:rseely@colonial.net))

Wade Hendricks ([whendricks@colonial.net](mailto:whendricks@colonial.net))

CPS Instrumental Music Teachers



## 1. COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. **It is essential** that students make a year-long commitment to instrumental music.
- B. Students need to be responsible for having their instruments, music, and pencil with them at each lesson and rehearsal, and for taking these tools home again.
- C. Students are responsible for coming to their lessons and rehearsals at the correct time.

## 2. PRACTICE

- A. Students need to practice their instruments at home to be prepared for their lessons. It is critical that students practice at least 4 times per week for 20 minutes to accomplish this.
- B. Students need to show their at home efforts in the form of a practice chart. These must be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian on a weekly basis as they will be checked each week by the lesson teacher.

## 3. ATTENDANCE

- A. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. A student will be excused for illness or other emergencies, in which case the instructor must be notified.
- B. Band students meet twice weekly: once for group lessons (see chart, page 1) and once for full ensemble rehearsal (beginning first week of November).
- C. Mark ALL Concert performance dates and commitments on your calendar. A list can be found in this packet.

## 4. PRIVATE LESSONS

Though not mandatory it is highly recommended that instrumental students take private lessons. The Instrumental Music School of Carlisle and Concord (IMSCC) offers professionally taught lessons on all instruments. This year over 400 elementary, middle, and high school students will enroll in private lessons through this program! Visit <http://ace.colonial.net/imsc>, for more info.

## 5. PERCUSSION

Students interested in percussion should take private lessons during their 5<sup>th</sup> grade year and sign up for band in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Be prepared to play an audition at the onset of 6<sup>th</sup> grade demonstrating your ability to play rhythms of 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> notes WHILE TAPPING YOUR TOE/HEEL!

## Instrument Rental Information

*Students have seen a great performance and demonstration of the instruments available to them to learn through the Elementary Instrumental Music Program. Your child can make a decision to participate in the school band program and which instrument they would like to learn to play. This is an important decision and one that should not be taken lightly as it is understood the child will continue to play this chosen instrument in subsequent years of instruction.*

*Help your child to understand the possible long-term implications of such a decision and to weigh it out carefully. Keep in mind that 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to choose orchestra, band, or chorus as an elective; as 6<sup>th</sup> graders, band students are expected to have completed a full year of playing and instruction.*

### Instrument

Music & Arts (Newton) is the music rental company for Concord Public Schools. By this designation CPS can assure you that Music & Arts will provide quality rental instruments. Furthermore, having one company to work with make it easier to facilitate fixing an instrument should the need arise. Music & Arts has agreed to work closely with the Instrumental Music Department to provide the best service they can.

Should you choose NOT to rent from Music & Arts you are agreeing to take the instrument rental, maintenance, purchase of lesson book and supplies, and repair into your own hands.



To rent an instrument for your child:

1. go to [www.musicarts.com](http://www.musicarts.com)
2. click on "rentals" tab
3. enter your zip code to find your school
4. click on your school's name
5. select the instrument your child would like to play
6. select "Deliver to school" option

## Lesson Book

ALL instrumental students **MUST HAVE** the appropriate lesson book for their chosen instrument:

***Standards of Excellence, Book 1 (red cover)***



Music & Arts (Newton) will supply lesson books for rented instruments.

## Music Stand

In order to practice, students need a place to put their music - the folding, metal variety work perfectly fine.



## Parent Checklist

- Talk to child about commitment to program for entire school year*
- Rent instrument from Music & Arts*
- Purchase lesson book (supplied with Music & Arts rental)*
- Review and understand practice responsibilities with student (80 min/week)*
- Mark concert/special rehearsal dates on calendar (next page)*

# Mark these important dates!



***Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>***  
***Instrument Lessons begin***

***Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>***  
***Full Band Rehearsals begin***

***Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>***  
***Willard Winter Band Concert 7:15pm***

***Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>***  
***Thoreau Winter Band Concert 7:15pm***

***Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>***  
***Alcott Winter Band Concert 7:15pm***

***Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>***  
***Combined 5<sup>th</sup> grade grade/6<sup>th</sup> grade band Spring Concert***  
***Sanborn Middle School 7:30 pm***

***Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>***  
***Thoreau School Spring Concert 7:00pm***

***Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>***  
***Alcott School Spring Concert 7:00pm***

***Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>***  
***Willard Arts Night 7:00pm***

# Instrumental Lesson Program Expectations Form

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Choice (circle one)

Flute

Trumpet

Clarinet

Trombone

Oboe

Baritone

Alto Saxophone

We have read all of the Elementary Instrumental Music Program policies and expectations and have discussed them. Student understands the practice requirement of 80 minutes per week and knows to fill out the practice journal in the lesson book. We agree with and support these policies and will work together with the Elementary Instrumental Music teachers to attain the highest standard of excellence.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Best email address(es) for correspondence \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**\* Please return to envelope posted outside music room by:  
Friday, June 10th**