

Instrumental Music Registration

The music faculty in Voorhees invites you to register your child for the Instrumental Music Program! Share the joys of learning music and playing an instrument with your child this year! 4th and 5th grade students attended a short assembly to see the instruments they can choose from to be a part of the school band or orchestra, hopefully they will tell you all about it!

Students who join the program have the amazing opportunity to receive free instruction on a band or orchestra instrument throughout the school year, with the only cost being providing an instrument to use.

Please read the second page for more detailed information regarding instruments and instrument rental pricing.

Registration for the lesson program is being done digitally. Please click the link below to be taken to the registration page:

[Online Registration Form](#)

The deadline to register for the program is **Friday, September 20th**

Upon completing the registration, please visit <https://www.colesmusicservice.com> to rent the instrument you have chosen. Additional information can be found on the Teacher Page of your child's instrumental music teacher. We are looking forward to an amazing year and encourage all interested students to sign up and play music with us! Please reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dan Grippi - District Orchestra Director - grippi@voorhees.k12.nj.us

Website: <https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/Domain/5082>

Mr. Michael Farrell - Osage and Kresson Band Director - mfarrell@voorhees.k12.nj.us

Website: <https://www.voorhees.k12.nj.us/Domain/463>

Mr. Chad Justis - Signal Hill and Hamilton Band Director - justis@voorhees.k12.nj.us

A Note About Buying Instruments Instead of Renting and Low Cost Instrument Warning!

If buying on eBay/marketplace/craigslist/etc... instruments may look great, but it COULD need a lot of work done, and that is something you would never know. Fixing/replacing pads on a woodwind instrument can be upwards of hundreds of dollars. String instruments may be unplayable or need major repairs that are not evident to the untrained eye.

Some parents find new instruments from big box retailers (like AMAZON, Sams Club, BJ's, Walmart, etc..) Although the prices look great, the instruments are not quality instruments. (Example - a good beginner clarinet is about \$800.00-1,000.00 new, and some places sell a clarinet for \$99.00 - think about how much they must cut in quality to arrive at that price). Most of those instruments are imported with metals that are very brittle, and when a simple adjustment needs to be made, the metals can break off. It then needs to be repaired- and almost every repair shop will not work on these instruments as they basically cannot be repaired due to the inexpensive/low quality parts that are used in production.

I don't want to scare you - but I do want you to make an informed decision. With all this said- I have had parents that have gotten great instruments off of Marketplace- usually it is from another student who is upgrading to a mid-level or professional instrument, and they can show you that the instrument is working great by playing it.

Learning an instrument can be a challenge for a 4th or 5th grader. Having an instrument that does not work well can be an added frustration for a student, which can be prevented. If you choose to rent from our provider Coles, you are guaranteed a very good instrument, and that is one hurdle that the student will not have to worry about. After renting for a while, you can then always look into finding a good instrument to eventually purchase.

A Note About the Program and Instrument Rental Pricing

However you decide to obtain an instrument for your child, please be aware that **the Voorhees Instrumental program runs through the whole school year**, and participating students will need access to an instrument from October through June to play in our end of year concerts.

Many rental companies, including our partner company Coles Music, offer a variety of rental lengths with different pricing options. Look over these options carefully and be aware of the overall cost to rent for the school year. Many of the trial lengths like the 2 and 4 month options look like a good deal to get started, but after the trial period ends you will be switched to a monthly bill at a higher rate and end up paying more over the course of the year than the 10 month option. Our goal here is to provide transparency in rental pricing and help parents get the most value for their dollar!

Hopefully this all helps in making your decision! And please don't hesitate to get back in touch with any other questions.