



JENISON ORCHESTRAS

Check out our website for more info! www.JenisonOrchestras.org

Aug 29 & 30, 2023

Dear 5th Grade Orchestra Parent:

Welcome to the Jenison Orchestra Program! We're glad you're here! We know that having your child in Orchestra may be a first-time experience for you. So, here is some information about our lessons, expectations, and how you can help make this a positive and successful beginning to a lifetime of music enjoyment.

LESSON DAYS AND TIMES

5th Grade Orchestra instruction begins on Tues Sep 5th OR Wed Sep 6th. (See the weekly schedule at the bottom of this page. There will be NO Monday classes the first week, due to Labor Day.) One of the weekly lessons is during the school day at the child's school. The other two weekly lessons occur at 8:00am at the Junior High. *If you would like your child to ride their neighborhood bus to Orchestra, please contact the Transportation Office to reserve a spot.* If you are dropping off your child, **please arrive no earlier than 7:45am.** After the morning lessons, the students will be bused back to their elementary school to start their regular school day. We do expect students to come to each lesson, even if they have forgotten their instrument on lesson day. During the 45-minute afternoon class, students may miss some class work. If a student is falling behind in their regular classes because of Orchestra, please contact us to discuss the problem. We can usually find a solution together.

PRACTICE TIME

Practice at home is extremely important, however it should not be complicated or difficult! Beginner students should aim to practice three to five days each week for just ten to fifteen minutes each day. That is ample time to make improvements and learn the materials from our lessons together. It should actually be fun for them with all the special songs they'll be learning this year! There are also play-along tracks and a website to use during practice.

YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ROLE

We provide the technical knowledge of music and the instrument along with lots of smiles and encouragement. But it is YOUR encouragement and praise for the steps along the way that are essential to success. Ask your child often to show you what they are working on, and we think you will be very pleasantly surprised at how quickly progress is made!

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?

Mrs. Johnson's Orchestra Office is at the Junior High; the direct line is 667-3266. Please feel free to call or email (cjohnson@jpsonline.org) at any time with questions or concerns!

FIFTH GRADE ORCHESTRA CLASS SCHEDULES BY BUILDING:

Transportation is provided back to all elementary buildings at 8:45am.

BAUERWOOD 5th Graders:	Mon 12:55pm @ JH*,	Wed 8:00am @ JH,	Fri 8:00am @ JH
BURSLEY 5th Graders:	Mon 8:00am @ JH,	Wed 8:00am @ JH,	Thu 1:00pm @ BU
EL PUENTE 5th Graders:	Mon 8:00am @ JH,	Wed 8:00am @ JH,	Fri 12:55pm @ EP
PINEWOOD 5th Graders:	Mon 8:00am @ JH,	Tues 12:55pm @ PW,	Fri 8:00am @ JH
SANDY HILL 5th Graders:	Mon 8:00am @ JH,	Wed 12:45pm @ SH,	Fri 8:00am @ JH
ROSEWOOD 5th Graders:	Mon 12:55pm @ JH*,	Wed 8:00am @ JH,	Fri 8:00am @ JH

**Transportation is also provided both ways for the Rosewood and Bauerwood Monday afternoon class.*

What do I need to know about renting an instrument?

First of all, consider yourself lucky to be living in an area where there is lots of healthy competition between music stores. The fact that there are several stores all desiring your business has caused rental prices to go down significantly recently. It is now more affordable than ever to rent an instrument for your child.

Tonight, there are **two music stores** present to offer you instruments: Baroque Violin Shop, and Guarneri House (formerly known as Aaron's Instruments). These stores have worked with the Jenison Orchestras for many years, and are reputable and responsible companies. (You may opt to rent from another company if you choose, but we recommend that you avoid internet or department store instruments.) Your orchestra directors strongly recommend renting an instrument (as opposed to purchasing one), due to the benefits offered by renting. Both rental companies here tonight offer many "**perks**" for the duration of your rental. These include:

- a bow and case included with your instrument rental
- your method book included with your rental
- a shoulder pad included with all violin or viola rentals
- an endpin strap included with all cello rentals
- a portable music stand included with your rental
- free maintenance and repair of instrument/bow/strings/case
- free "loaner" instrument provided while any repairs are being completed
- repairs and loaners are taken care of at school, so parents don't have to travel to a store
- free "size-ups" to larger instruments as your student grows

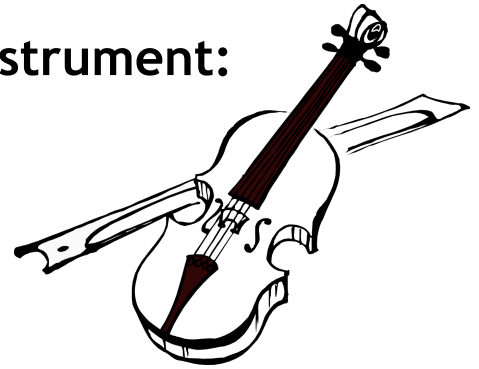
Baroque Violin Shop is a nationally recognized company, specializing in student and professional level string products. They are based out of Cincinnati, Ohio, (and have a Michigan location) and service many schools throughout the Mid-West. The Baroque Violin Shop applies 100% of your rental fees toward up to half of the final purchase price of your instrument. In addition to the above "perk" list, loss and theft are covered with your rental, and repairs are provided the next business day via UPS with no shipping fees. When you are ready to pay off your instrument, The Baroque Violin Shop lets you choose a new one from their inventory, so you won't have to own your rental. The Baroque Violin Shop offers students a very impressive selection of higher quality instruments later down the road. As students progress, they can trade in their student level instrument for higher quality instruments, with previous payments applying to the new instrument. They also feature a comprehensive online store for all of your instrument needs. Please see The Baroque Violin Shop's flier, or talk to their representatives for further details.

- Monthly rental fee:	Violin/Viola: \$16	Cello: \$35
- Rent the whole first year tonight:	Violin/Viola: \$95	Cello: \$225
- Yearly rental after first year:	Violin/Viola: \$160	Cello: \$350

Guarneri House is a local family owned business that was in downtown Grand Rapids for thirty years, and now is located in Hudsonville. They carry instruments from student level to professional, and they have a very affordable rental program for Jenison's Orchestra families. Guarneri House offers an impressive selection of advanced level instruments so that students never "outgrow" their shop. The rental program at Guarneri House applies your credit for the life of your contract (excluding \$7-\$10 per month insurance fee) towards your final purchase price. If you would like more information, please consult the Guarneri House flier, or talk with one of their representatives.

- Monthly rental fee:	Violin/Viola: \$17	Cello: \$31
- Rent the whole first year tonight:	Violin/Viola: \$99	Cello: \$250
- Yearly rental after first year:	Violin/Viola: \$170	Cello: \$310

Taking care of your new stringed instrument:



- Always handle the instrument carefully and gently.
- When not being played, keep the instrument stored in its case.
- Find a location in your home to store the instrument that is safe and not accessible to small children or pets.
- Keep the instrument in a climate with a moderate temperature. Both extreme high and low temperatures (as well as rapid temperature changes) are bad for the instrument, and can cause cracks and open seams. Take care not to leave instruments near heating vents or radiators, or in cars, trunks, or garages overnight.
- Be particularly gentle of the bridge area on the “belly” of the instrument. The bridge is not glued onto the instrument. It is just held there by the strings, and can easily be bumped or knocked out of place.
- Don’t turn the black pegs or the silver tuners, unless you are a trained string player. It is easy to break strings by turning the pegs. If the instrument goes out of tune, or if a string gets loose, simply bring it to your next class and one of the directors will happily fix it for you.
- Don’t try to repair anything on the instrument. All string instruments use special kinds of stain, glue, varnish, and tools for repairs. Your rental contract covers all repairs that may be needed, and will be completed by a professional instrument technician for free. In addition, many repairs can easily be completed by the directors at school.
- When in doubt, don’t hesitate to ask questions! All of your orchestra directors check email and voice mail as often as we can!



SAVE THE DATES!

Please add the following information to your family calendar.



Important Dates for 2023-2024 5th Grade Orchestra:

Tue Sep 5 OR Wed Sep 6 - 5th Grade Orchestra classes begin
(Follow the normal weekly schedule, no Mon classes this week)

Wed, Dec 6 - All 5th Grade Orchestra members attend the 8am class at the JCA
(No PM class at Sandy Hill.)

Wed, Dec 6, 7:00pm in the JCA - Our First Concert!

Fri, Dec 8 - No 8am Class for any 5th Graders

Fri, Dec 22 - No 5th Grade Orchestra classes

Fri Jan 26 - No 5th Grade Orchestra classes

Tue Feb 27 & Wed, Feb 28 - No 5th Grade Orchestra classes

Mon, Apr 29 - All 5th Grade Orchestra members attend the 8am class!
(No PM class for Rosewood or Bauerwood.)

Wed, May 1 - All 5th Grade Orchestra members attend the 8am class at the JCA!
(No PM class at Sandy Hill.)

Wed, May 1, 7:00pm in the JCA - String Spectacular Concert!

Fri, May 3 - No 8am Class for any 5th Graders

Fri, May 17 - Last 5th Grade Orchestra Class of the year

May 20, 22, 24 - "Bass Explorer" classes for students wanting to switch to string bass

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***We will not hold morning orchestra classes on any days with a two-hour weather delay.**

***And, as always, when there is no school, there are no orchestra classes, either. 😊**