



4th GRADE STUDENTS 2019-2020 Elementary Music Information

August 2019

Welcome to Elementary Music! We are excited to offer Music as a required part of the district's curriculum. Next school year, your student will attend music class twice a week. Students will participate in a General Music or an Instrument class. Students will participate in General Music unless their parents choose to enroll their student in an instrument class. The classes are:

General Music

General Music offers basic instruction in music theory, singing, rhythm, listening, movement, and recorder (instrument) playing. It is open to all students and it is a good choice for students wishing to participate in Choir or Band during 5th grade. A recorder and book for General Music will be provided by the District. A desk stand for General Music is recommended available for purchase through your teacher.

Instrument Class

Instrument class can be chosen instead of General Music. Playing an instrument is a big commitment. It requires that a student practices 15-20 minutes, 5 times per week. Once a student commits to playing an instrument, they will play that instrument for the duration of the school year. When choosing to play an instrument, you have the option to purchase or rent from an outside vendor, or borrow an instrument from the district. Our district has a limited supply of each instrument to loan to our students. If your family chooses to borrow an instrument from our district, we cannot guarantee which instrument they will receive. A book for the Instrument class will be provided by the District. A floor stand for the Instrument class is recommended and available for purchase at Loaner Night.

Beginning Strings: Beginning Strings students will choose an instrument from Violin, Viola, or Cello. This class teaches introductory instruction on reading music, technique, and tone production. **ATTENTION: Students must take Beginning Strings in 4th grade, if they wish to enroll into Intermediate Strings in the 5th grade.**

OBTAINING AN INSTRUMENT

Instrument Rentals: If you decide to rent an instrument, you may do so at any area music store. Please see our website for local rental options. www.fcusd.org/Music

Instrument Purchase: You have the option to purchase an instrument. We do not recommend that you purchase an instrument from the internet or big box store. When doing this, you cannot be sure of the quality of the instrument that you will be getting. Also, as children grow and progress in music, they may need different instruments for middle and high school.

District Loaned Instruments: If you decide to borrow an instrument from the district, we will be holding Instrument Loaner Nights during the second and third weeks of school. The specific Instrument Loaner Night information for your student is on the back of this letter. We ask for a voluntary \$40 donation (cash, check, or credit debit card) to offset the maintenance and cleaning cost of these District instruments.

For information, please check our website @ www.fcusd.org/Music and during the first week of school.