

WEST BABYLON SCHOOLS

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Join the Band or Orchestra Lesson Program!

(Open to all students entering grades 4 or 5 during the 2022-23 school year)

June, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Registration is now open for all third grade students who would like to join our band and orchestra lesson program during the 2022-23 school year. Please click on the Student Registration Link below to register your child for this program.

Please take a moment to review the the Frequently Asked Questions on the next page which provides more information about our program. In addition, we encourage you to view the instrument demonstration videos shown below for more information about the instruments we teach in school. (Please note not all instruments are available in each building due to schedule and staffing limitations.)

Band Instrument Demonstration Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCTeSjpDsIs>

Orchestra Instrument Demonstration Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azwRCDORHWA>

Many groups fill up very quickly and we can only accommodate a limited number of students in each instrument group. In order for us to complete the selection process in a timely manner, please be sure your child's registration form is completed and submitted **no later than Friday, June 10.**

Student Registration Link (you must use this Google Form link to register):

<https://forms.gle/zSiwpZskEqz2w9FS9>

We look forward to welcoming your child into our instrumental music program!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Doran".

William Doran
K-12 Music Chairperson
West Babylon Schools
Office: (631) 376-7268
wdoran@wbschools.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BAND AND ORCHESTRA LESSON PROGRAM

Are students *required* to learn an instrument in school?

This is a voluntary program, but we strongly encourage all students who are interested in being in band or orchestra to start now. Our fourth grade lesson program is exploratory in nature, meaning that it gives students the opportunity to try an instrument that is of interest to them.

How is my child chosen for an instrument?

Instrument selection is based on several factors, including but not limited to facial characteristics (lip, teeth and jaw structure), body characteristics (arm length, physical size, hand/finger size and dexterity), past performance in music, and enrollment limitations with some instrument groups. A student may be determined to play a particular instrument, but it may or may not be the best choice for the reasons stated above. Students who are unsure about what instrument they want to play should consult with a music teacher for assistance (see contact info below).

When will my child find out what instrument my child is playing?

We plan to send welcome letters out during the week of June 20-24. The e-mail used to register your child is the one we will use for correspondence as needed.

What are my responsibilities as a parent to help my child succeed on an instrument?

- Provide an instrument for your child that is in good working order. We recommend renting from a local instrument dealer during the first year.
- Provide your child with the necessary materials and supplies that are needed for the instrument your child is chosen for. More details about this are provided in the student welcome letter.
- Remind students to practice consistently at home (as part of their homework) in order to develop the necessary skills that are needed to successfully perform on an instrument.
- Make sure students bring their instrument and materials to school on their lesson days (schedules will be available in September)..

I already have an instrument at home that my child can use. Is this permitted?

In most cases, yes but there are some exceptions. Please make sure that you notify us at the time of registration. If necessary, we will contact you for additional information.

When will my child get instruction on his/her instrument?

Instrumental lessons are given from September to June during the school day via a rotating schedule. This rotating schedule ensures your child does not miss the same class each time lessons are held. There is no before or after school requirement for first year students in our program.

I am unable to rent an instrument for my child. What are my options?

Parents may request a school owned instrument for their child to use in our program. However, availability is very limited so please notify us immediately if you need a school instrument. This request should be made on the registration form, but be advised it may limit the choices of instruments that are available, but we will do everything we can to enable your child to participate in our program.

I have other questions. How can I contact a member of the instrumental music teaching staff?

For questions about **band instruments** (flute, clarinet, saxophone, french horn, trumpet, euphonium, tuba, percussion) please contact Mr. Scott msscott@wbschools.org

For questions about **orchestra instruments** (violin, viola, cello, bass) please contact Mrs. Leidel eleidel@wbschools.org

You can also contact Mr. Doran, K-12 Music Chairperson wdoran@wbschools.org