



Harrison Central School District Department of Fine and Performing Arts

50 Union Avenue
Harrison, NY 10528
914-630-3389 or 914-630-3016

HCS D Elementary Instrumental Program Frequently Asked Questions

What does my child need?

Parents are responsible for getting an instrument and accessories before the beginning of the school year. Accessories vary depending on the instrument and may need to be replaced throughout the year. We also recommend having a music stand for practice at home. Your child's teacher will provide them with music and a method book.

Where does my child get an instrument?

We recommend that you rent or buy from a reputable music store that will help you select the right size and quality instrument. We will provide you with a list of local stores that rent and sell instruments. Stores send out their best instruments first, so if you are renting it is best to do this at the beginning of the summer.

Should I rent or buy?

Most families choose to rent a student-quality instrument in elementary school. When you rent, the store is responsible for routine maintenance and repairs and you have the option of replacing the instrument each year. String instruments come in different sizes and you will need to update the instrument as your child grows. Many stores offer a rent-to-buy program where your rental costs are applied to the purchase price of the instrument. After a few years, you may choose to purchase the student- or a higher-quality instrument.

Where does my child keep the instrument?

Your child needs to have their instrument and method book at home so they can practice every day. They bring the instrument and method book to school on days when they have a lesson or rehearsal. Schedules are sent home every trimester so that you will know when to send these items to school. For large instruments that cannot be taken on the bus, the teacher will provide an instrument to be used in school and the students will only need to bring their music and method book back and forth.

When does my child have lessons and rehearsals?

Lessons and rehearsal occur once each six-day cycle. Your child's instrumental teacher and classroom teacher work together to create a schedule that best meets the needs of the students. Your child is responsible for making up any work they miss.

How often should my child practice?

Regular practice is the key to learning any new skill. Your child's teacher will send home an assignment sheet after every lesson. We recommend twenty minutes of practice every day.

When are the concerts? What should my child wear?

Fourth-grade students give their first public the school's spring concert in May or June. Students are expected to be at every concert and to wear concert dress (white tops, black pants or skirts and shoes).



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Elementary Instrumental Program

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Make sure your child has an instrument and accessories before the opening of school in September. Stores send out their best instruments first, so try to get the instrument in late June or early July.
- Help your child remember to take their instrument and music to school on days when they have a lesson or rehearsal.
- Encourage your child to practice at home every day. Just like math or reading, practice is part of their homework.
- Support your child's progress. Ask to hear them play for you and comment on the improvement they make!

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Practice your instrument every day doing the exercises and pieces given to you by your teacher. This is the only way to get better!
- Take care of your instrument by cleaning it and placing it in the case after you practice.
- Bring your instrument and music to school on days when you have a lesson or rehearsal. Take it home at the end of the day so that you can practice.
- Attend all of your lessons and rehearsals.
- Ask your music teacher for extra help before or after school.
- Attend every concert with your instrument and music.
- Attend every concert in appropriate dress as instructed by your teacher.