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# Playing a Musical Instrument

Your child will be attending an assembly next week, presented by the instrumental music teachers of the Council Rock School District, for the purposes of introducing instruments of the band.

Before the class attends this program, you may want



to discuss as a family the value of studying a musical instrument.  
the value of studying a musical instrument

You may also wish to discuss the various instruments available to your child, how they sound and what kinds of music they can make. The instrument your child is most likely to practice is the one which has the most pleasing sound. Encourage your prospective musician to listen carefully for the instrument that sounds most appealing.

In spite of the fact that best friends like to stay together, taking the same instrument together has both advantages and disadvantages. If one friend likes the instrument and the other doesn't, it may help to talk this over a bit more.



This works especially well when friends can practice together.

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## Dollars and Sense

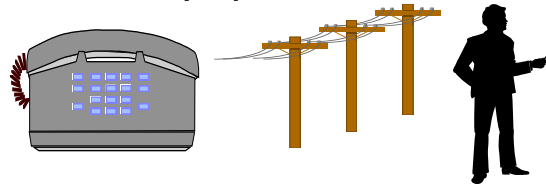
Now realism sets in. Most parents want this experience for their child and are more than willing to take on some financial responsibility. Your children must understand that this is an extra cost for you and that in return for your financial backing, your budding artist will have to put in some time and effort.



Students seem to take their study more seriously when the cost to parents *and* children is clear.

**PLEASE BE SURE THAT THE INSTRUMENT YOU CHOOSE IS PLAYABLE. NOT ALL INSTRUMENTS ARE SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS DESPITE WHAT THE PACKAGING SAYS!**

## Have any questions?



When the assembly is concluded, we will be sending home some information with your child concerning the choice of an instrument and ways in which you may obtain one for your aspiring musician. There is a vendor (Music and Arts Center) which has set up a way for you to rent an instrument so that it will be ready for the first lesson (in about two weeks). You may want to explore other options as well, but be careful. **If you have any questions at all about the process** of choosing an instrument for your child relating to size, style, rental procedure, or using a previously owned instrument, feel free to call your school and leave a message for the instrumental music teacher. Leave a number and hours to call you back. We would love to hear from you !

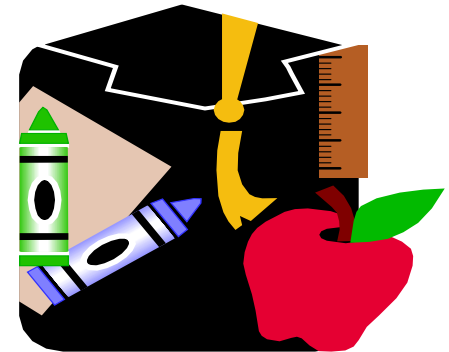
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## Music for the BRAIN!

How does music help your brain?

Research has shown that the study of music helps to strengthen the neurons which connect the different parts of the brain. Musicians are whole-brain learners. Contrary to what we once thought, musical artists have both a strong left *and* right brain. Since music is an expressive art, it is a strong right brain activity. But music has also proven to have a very strong correlation to mathematical skills, therefore becoming a strong left brain activity as well.

So, if you are interested in an activity for your child that will be fun and fulfilling and stimulate brain activity, try music. It may help in many ways!



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## ACTIVITY, TIME,



The world is full of many things we can do with our time. Some people learn things quickly and have lots of time to do a variety of activities.



Some of us need to make careful choices about what we will do with our time. In choosing to play an instrument, you have decided how you will spend 15 to 20 minutes of



every day.

Playing your instrument every day is the way you get to be better. How do you get to be a star?

**YOU  
PRACTICE!**



## COUNCIL ROCK'S Beginning Instrument Study

It is the policy of the Council Rock School District to give students the opportunity to begin playing Stringed instruments in the **third grade**. Because these instruments are available in sizes to suit younger children, it is most appropriate that young children be given the opportunity to begin their instrumental music study with the violin, viola and cello.

Children who express an interest in beginning a stringed instrument will be sized for that instrument at the conclusion of the assembly program. This implies no obligation to parents, but will expedite the ordering process.

In the **fourth grade**, students may choose any of the above-named stringed instruments, or may choose one of the several band instruments offered. Band instruments are not available in different sizes. Because of improved motor skills, increased cognitive abilities and more appropriate physical growth children of this age are better able to handle an instrument of adult size. Therefore, when children reach **fourth grade** level they may choose flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, or percussion. Older children (usually sixth grade students) are also afforded the opportunity to play tuba or string bass, but special arrangements must be made with the teacher to play these instruments. The oboe is a double-reed instrument which has a limited appeal, but is also available to beginning band students. The teacher should be consulted if this is of interest.

If students have already studied an instrument privately outside of school, please contact the teacher as soon as possible.

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# MUSIC is coming to your child



Sol Feinstone Elementary—  
Grades 3-6

Instrument Introduction  
Recruitment Assembly

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