

3rd grade Planning Information for 4th Grade
Instrumental Program in West Irondequoit

September

- Instruments are reviewed in 4th grade General music class with Mrs. Petro and Mrs. Conti. Students then choose 3 that they would like to try out. They will be pulled from their General Music class (starting near the end of September) to try those 3 instruments and then they will choose their 2 favorites.
- Guitar, ukulele, piano and drum set are not offered as part of the program.
- Orchestra and band teachers will then balance instrumentation between the ensembles based on assessment at try-outs and student preference. (Some instruments have a limit to the number of students being placed on them, ex. percussion, oboe)
- A letter with permission slip is sent home by the classroom teachers. Permission is needed for your child to be enrolled in the program.
- In order for students to truly get the full experience of the instrumental program (gaining skills on their instrument, participating in lessons and ensembles and the culmination of their hard work showcased at the concert in June) this is a year commitment.
- After the students try out the instruments, you will receive a letter from us with the instrument assigned from one of the favorites (by the end of September).
- You will then have time to rent an instrument (info for this will be sent home). Please do not buy an instrument from Amazon as they are poor quality, and repairs are difficult or impossible. Lesson books are provided by the school

There are 2 parts to the instrumental program

Lessons and morning rehearsals

Lessons:

- They are in school (30 minutes) on one of the letter days in the 6-day cycle.
- Lessons will always be on the same letter day, but the times rotate each lesson, so they are not pulled from the same part of their day.
- They are grouped according to instrument.
- Students will receive a lesson schedule from us when all of the instrument assignments have been finalized.

Morning rehearsals:

-Rehearsals are in the morning before school (**Iroquois is from 7:30 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. Rogers is from 8:05-8:50am**) but will not begin until the second semester because they need to learn how to play their instruments individually before they can play them together. More details will be sent home during second semester as we get closer to the start date for ensembles (band and orchestra).

-Students in grade 4 are able to participate in band and chorus or orchestra and chorus as they meet on different mornings, but 4th grade band and orchestra rehearsals meet on the same day.

Practicing:

-We need your support with practicing to reinforce the skills that we have learned at school. For some, making it a part of the homework routine works really well and sets up a routine.

-Students will be shown how to practice effectively.

-We ask for a minimal time commitment and thank you for your support at home. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel_Britt@westiron.monroe.edu at Iroquois or Caitlin_Doi@westiron.monroe.edu (Band) or Heather_Aldous@westiron.monroe.edu (Orchestra) at Rogers.

We can't wait to start making music!