VFE Music

June 2026

Dear Parents of Rising 3rd and 4th Graders,

We are pleased to offer your child instrumental and choral music instruction this school year!

3rd Grade: *String Orchestra & Chorus*

Third grade students are invited to play a string instrument (**Violin**, **Viola**, or **Cello)**! Group string lessons begin in September, during the school day for 30 minutes, and continue throughout the entire school year. In January, students that participate in string lessons also begin 3rd Grade String Orchestra Rehearsal once a cycle before school. Third grade students are also invited to sing in the Chorus! Morning rehearsals begin in September and are held once a cycle before school.

4th Grade: *String Orchestra, Band, & Chorus*

Fourth grade students are invited to play a string instrument (**Violin, Viola, Cello**), a band instrument (**Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Baritone, Percussion/Bell Kit**), and/or sing in the Chorus! Group instrument lessons begin in September and are during the school day once a cycle for 30 minutes. Fourth Grade Orchestra and Chorus rehearsals begin in September and are once a cycle before school. In January, all Band musicians will start attending morning Band rehearsals once a cycle before school.

Registration: *www.tesd.net/VFmusic*

Musicians may participate in more than one ensemble! Visit your music teacher's web page (above) to register. You can also find registration on your child's Schoology page under their music course. **Please register by September 5th, as lessons will start the following week.**

Acquiring an Instrument

For String/Band lessons, we ask that you provide your child with an instrument, book, and supplies by the first lesson. You may choose to use an instrument that you have in your possession (must be in excellent playing condition and proper size) or you may elect to rent an instrument. **A list of music stores and important supplies is on the back.** Please be sure your child accompanies you to the music store to ensure that he/she receives the correct size instrument. If you are unable to provide an instrument for your child, please contact your school Guidance Counselor regarding the District's FLITE program. BUS NOTE: District policy states musical instruments must be able to fit on the student's lap or under the seat ahead of them without endangering the safety of other students. Students with large instruments should provide their own transportation to school on lesson days.

Thank you for your interest in the music program at Tredyffrin/Easttown School District!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Emily Nation – VFE Music Teacher – NationE@tesd.net
Ms. Jordana Schaeffer- Elementary Strings Teacher- SchaefferJ@tesd.net
Mrs. Carolyn Swetkowski- VFE School Counselor- SwetkowskiC@tesd.net
Dr. Matthew Sterenczak- District Music Supervisor- SterenczakMA@tesd.net

Music Stores

These vendors have expressed interest in working with our district.
Their listing does not necessarily denote endorsement by the school district.

Music and Arts
371W Lancaster Ave.
Suite R1
Wayne, PA
610-687-1721

Mt. Airy Strings
6665 Germantown Ave.
Philadelphia, PA
215-438-9031

Taylor's Music
116 W. Gay Street
West Chester, PA
610-696-1812

Music Books & Supplies

Strings

- 3rd & 4th Grade Lesson Book:
  Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1, Allen, Gillespie, Hayes & Higgens
- All violin and violas need a shoulder rest or sponge. (this can be purchased at the music store)
- All string instruments need fingerboard tape. (this should be done at the music store)
- All string instruments need to be the appropriate size. (the music store can size your child)

Band

- Lesson Book:
  Standard of Excellence ENHANCED, Book 1, Bruce Pearson, Neil A. Kjos Music Co.
- **Flute:** cleaning rod and swab/handkerchief
- **Clarinet:** packet of **size 2 reeds***, cleaning swab, cork grease
- **Saxophone:** packet of **size 2 reeds*** cleaning swab, cork grease, neck strap
- **Oboe:** 3 double reeds **(medium-soft)***, cleaning swab, cork grease
- *Reeds are delicate pieces of wood that will break easily and do not last forever. You will need to purchase more as they are used throughout the school year.
- **Trumpet, Baritone, and French Horn:** valve oil
- **Trombone:** slide cream
- **Percussion:** purchase or rent a **Bell Kit** (includes bells, mallets, snare pad, sticks)