

Westwood Public Schools

Performing Arts Department

March 2024

Dear Grade 3 Parents,

As we begin to look ahead to our students' 4th grade year, families are being asked to make a choice about their child's participation in our **Grade 4 Band** program next school year.

Westwood is proud to be able to offer students an opportunity to learn a band instrument and to perform music with classmates as part of our 4th grade curriculum. In weekly band classes, students will have fun learning to play an instrument of their choice, while benefiting from the many important learning skills associated with the study of a musical instrument. Students who begin playing an instrument during school in grade 4 will also be on track for continued participation in Westwood's outstanding instrumental music ensembles in grades 5-12.

Students who do not wish to participate in band next year will continue to meet for **General Music**, in a continuation of their previous classroom music curriculum.

Instrument Introductions

Grade 3 students will be attending a Grade 4 Band Presentation in school this week to learn more about the band. During this presentation, students will be introduced to each of our grade 4 band instrument choices: **flute, clarinet, trumpet and trombone**. These instruments will be presented one at a time by our woodwind specialist, Mrs. Labeledz and our brass specialist, Mr. Yennior.

Families are also encouraged to watch [this video](#) of our band teachers demonstrating the four band instrument choices.

Obtaining an Instrument

Parents of students participating in band will be asked to obtain an instrument for their child to play during school in grade 4.

Many families who do not already have an instrument in the family (and do not wish to purchase an instrument) choose to rent one instead. Westwood has a partnership with the [K&C Music Company](#) in Norwood, who offers affordable rental prices and regular customer service visits throughout the school year (*see attached*). The school also has a limited number of school-owned instruments that are available for students who may qualify for assistance.

Families who choose to participate in the Grade 4 Band will receive more information about instrument rentals and other details about the program later this spring.

Grade 4 Band / General Music Selection Form - Please Reply

Because scheduling for music class times will be influenced by students' grade 4 music choices, we are asking families to carefully consider their decision to participate either in Grade 4 Band or General Music class next year (this choice will be for the full school year).

Once you have made a decision, please take a moment to complete our online **Grade 4 Band / General Music Selection Form**, which can be accessed here:

<https://forms.gle/wJ3fKa2bsfyZDBQ89>

We ask that this form be completed no later than

We ask that this form be completed no later than April 29th.

We are excited to have the opportunity to work with your child in the Grade 4 Band or General Music class next year! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have about the Grade 4 Music programs.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Cote
Director of Performing Arts, Westwood Public Schools
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