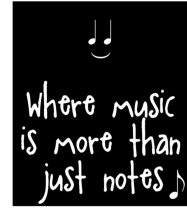




Auten Road Intermediate School Instrumental Music Department



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Each year, Hillsborough 4th grade students have the opportunity to become a part of the exciting world of instrumental music by joining the band or orchestra in Grade 5! Learning to play a musical instrument can be one of the most enriching of all school experiences with multiple academic and social benefits.

Any child can learn to play a musical instrument, as long as they are committed, supported and have a positive attitude! Those who put forth a good effort will always succeed and we will help them to develop their musical talents.

Parents often ask which instrument is best for their child. Even though there are many factors, such as the child’s physical features and the size of the instrument, generally it is the one he/she most wants to play. The ARIS instrumental team will be visiting all 6 elementary schools to allow students to try out the instruments to see which is the best fit for them! Parents will be provided an instrument recommendation plus rental information after the instrument trial. If your Essential Information on how the enriching Instrumental Music Program fits into the Auten Road day is available in this packet. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the information and reach out to your ARIS Instrumental Music Teacher liaison with any questions!

♪ IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER ♪

<u>May 25th</u> Last Day for Instrument Trial Selection on the ARIS Homepage..
<u>Week of June 4th</u> ARIS Instrumental Music Teachers visit Elementary Schools Please <u>DO NOT</u> rent or purchase an instrument until after your child has received an instrument recommendation from an ARIS music teacher.
<u>May 29th, 30th & 31st</u> 5th Grade Band and Orchestra Concerts at ARIS @ 7:00 p.m. Come see the accomplishments of this year’s 5th grade students to inspire your child for next year!
<u>September 7th</u> Instrumental Music Open House at ARIS @ 5 p.m. A perfect time to get all of your questions answered and set your musician up for a great year! Open to all 5th grade students and their families!

We are all looking forward to beginning an incredible musical journey together!!

Sincerely,

The Auten Road Intermediate School Instrumental Music Staff

♪ ARIS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM INFORMATION ♪

Eligibility:	Any child entering 5 th grade may sign up for the beginning instrumental program. We anticipate that lessons will begin on or about the week of <i>September 17th</i> .
Instruction:	<p>The ARIS Instrumental Music Program is comprised of two instructional components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Small group lessons for given instruments ➤ Big band/big orchestra (full ensemble) practices <p><u>Small Group Lessons:</u> At ARIS, your child will have Physical Education/Health classes scheduled five days per week. One day per week your child will attend their small group lesson instead of their Physical Education/Health class.</p> <p><u>Big Band/Big Orchestra/Full Ensemble Practice:</u> Your child will attend a full ensemble practice during one class period each Monday. This class period will rotate among mathematics, literacy, social studies and science classes to minimize impact upon their instruction. Fifth grade teachers are aware of Monday being a day on which several students attend full ensemble practices. While teachers are not expected to stop or slow the pacing of instruction, they are supportive of students developing responsibility in balancing their learning in both academics and instrumental music. Students are expected to approach their teacher after missing this class time in order to have an accurate description of what classwork or assignments need to be made up (<i>please see “Expectations Related to Students in Instrumental Music”</i>).</p>
Instruments:	<p>Instruction will be given on all band and string instruments offered at the instrument trial sessions. A beginning student should have an instrument of good quality in order to ensure progress (<i>in case of an older, used instrument, it is advised that you take it to a repair shop to assure that it is in good playing condition</i>).</p> <p>Parents are responsible for providing the instrument and lesson book. In cases of financial hardship, contact an ARIS instrumental music teacher for assistance.</p>
Commitment Policy:	The ARIS Instrumental Music Team strongly believes in teaching commitment and dedication through music education/performance. Because this curriculum is designed as a full year learning experience, we highly recommend that each student join the program with the intention of completing the school year.
ARIS Expectations Related to Students in Instrumental Music:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On big band/big orchestra days, students are responsible to ask the teacher in person about any missed work AFTER the missed period but before the end of the day. ARIS teachers are very accommodating of instrumental students. ➤ If a student is missing his/her instrument, they are still expected to attend the scheduled practice. ➤ Students must take their instruments home at the end of each day. ➤ All Students must purchase an Instrumental Music T-Shirt (\$5) for concerts.

♪ ARIS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONTACT INFORMATION ♪



Each ARIS Instrumental Music staff member is responsible for a specific elementary school. We welcome you to contact us with any questions! **If your child did not participate in the Instrument Trial but would still like to join the Band or Orchestra, contact your school liason.**

E-mail or call (908) 431-6600 and dial extensions listed below:

<p>Maria Strunk mstrunk@https.us <i>ext. 2650</i> <i>~ Amsterdam ~</i></p>	<p>Marc Angelone mangelone@https.us <i>ext. 3083</i> <i>~ Woods Road~</i></p>
<p>Gabrielle Chaya gchaya@https.us <i>ext. 3423</i> <i>~ Triangle & Woodfern~</i></p>	<p>Carrie Lansberry clansberry@https.us <i>ext. 2760</i> <i>~ Hillsborough Elementary~</i></p>
<p>Nancy Petrucelli npetrucelli@https.us <i>ext. 2300</i> <i>~Sunnymeade~</i> <i>~ string measurement~</i></p>	

You can also find important, helpful information on our **ARIS webpage**. Click on the activities link and Instrumental Music for back to school info, rehearsal schedules, and special events.

Want to know more about the benefits of music education? Read more regarding the social and academic benefits of studying an instrument! Simply type “Benefits of Music Education” into the Google search engine. Many articles and websites contain very exciting studies and research results! We encourage you to read more as your child prepares to begin their instrumental music education here at ARIS

♪ Recommendations for Instrument Rentals & Services ♪

A **quality** instrument is an integral part to your child's success, we highly recommend the following vendors who provide the best instruments and service to our students. Students who use higher quality instruments always have an advantage in tone and ease of use. We recommend renting versus purchasing to our beginners as renting provides a much higher quality at a lower cost. We are very satisfied with the **quality** of instruments, the competitive **prices** that they offer, and the level of **service** they provide to our district on a weekly basis. Both companies listed below make weekly visits to ARIS and provide repair and replacement services to our students without inconveniencing families. While many companies offer a 4 ½ month trial period, ***we highly recommend committing your child to the full school year*** and choosing the 10 month rental. The 10 month rental is also the most cost effective plan available. You are not obligated to use the services of the recommended companies but we request if you choose a different vendor that you contact your ARIS Instrumental Music liaison teacher.

All Students will also need a lesson book for class. Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone and Percussion students will be using **Tradition of Excellence Book 1**. All String students will be using **Orchestra Expressions Book 1**.

You may choose to visit the stores in person, or online at the addresses listed below:

MUSIC & ARTS CENTER
Mercer Mall, Rte. 1 South
Lawrenceville, NJ
(609) 987-9595

MUSIC & ARTS CENTER
Rental Office
Horsham, PA
(800) 347-1116

Rapid online rental and supplies available at MusicArts.com



NEMC
Big Bang Music
422 U.S. Hwy. 206 – Hillsborough, NJ
(908) 874-8080

NEMC
Raritan Music Center
55-56 W. Somerset St. Raritan, NJ
(908) 595-6980

EasyRent online rentals and supplies available at NEMC.com



BUYERS BEWARE!!

We *strongly* encourage renting an instrument as your child begins our program, but if you decide to purchase an instrument, please *be cautious* and do your research first. Unless you are buying from a reputable music store (such as the ones listed above), there is *no guarantee* that the instrument will be of good quality and may result in a frustrating experience for your child. Set your child up for success by purchasing a quality instrument that will last many years! Please feel free to contact us at any time if you would like any help or advice.