

Dear North Torrance Elementary School Parent,

The Torrance Unified School District is again offering all Fourth and Fifth grade students an opportunity to learn and play a musical instrument. In addition **Third grade students** will also have the opportunity to participate in instrumental music at my schools. Unlike most areas of Torrance, orchestral *string* instruments (Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass) will also be offered at the schools that I teach. Instrumental music instruction will be available to your child once a week, thirty minutes each week.

To receive detailed information regarding your child's music program such as common questions, local music vendors, recommended brands of instruments please go to www.ntyme.org to download the information. If your child is interested in playing an instrument please turn in the following permission slip. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at director@ntyme.org if you should have any questions. There is no deadline to turn in the permission slip or to get an instrument, but please do so as soon as possible so your child will miss as little instruction as possible.

I look forward to work with your child this year.

Musically yours,
Glen Kamida

North Torrance Elementary Music Sign Up Sheet

Arlington Carr Edison Lincoln Yukon
2008 – 2009

Student name School Teacher/room

Instrument Level (beginner, intermediate, or advanced)

Has your child received any prior musical instruction? _____

Do you have any questions? _____

I have read the North Torrance Elementary Instrumental Music form (hard copy and online at www.ntyme.org) and would like to have my child participate in the school music program.

Parent signature Date

Home Phone Work or Cell Phone

Email Email

Please turn this form in to your child's teacher.

Class instruction will begin the week of September 22, 2008. **Your child may still participate** even if the form is turned in late and an instrument is not purchased by the first day of instruction

I. Information regarding the instrumental music program.

a. Rehearsals

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade students will be offered instrumental music instruction twice a week for a half-hour each of those days. This is a pull out program, so your child will be missing class; however, the scheduling is designed to be very flexible so your child will have the opportunity to participate with very little impact on their academics. Your child will receive a detailed schedule on the first day of instrumental music instruction.

Before, after, and evening rehearsals will be scheduled so your child does not need to miss class. These rehearsals are beneficial, but they are also optional and not required for participation in the music program.

b. Instruments offered in the program

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade students are offered instrumental music instruction on the following orchestral instruments:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon

Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone

A list of recommended brands and local vendors are available on www.ntyme.org. I strongly encourage all students to rent an instrument unless you already have one.

Note: All Third grades parents and parents of smaller children, please make sure that when selecting an instrument for your child, that it is properly fit by a qualified person at the music store.

c. Required supplies

Along with the instrument (see www.ntyme.org for recommended brands of instruments), all students will need to purchase a textbook. **String** players will need to get *Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, Book 1*. **Woodwind and Brass** players will need to get *Standard of Excellence, Book 1*. **Advanced Band** students should get *Standard of Excellence, Book 2* and a *First Performance* book. Purchasing the *Standard of Excellence* books that include the play along compact disc is optional. **Advanced String** students will need *Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, Book 2* (see www.ntyme.org for recommended music stores). All students should also bring a sharpened pencil so assignments can be written down

The following is a specific list of requirements for each instrument:

Flute: cleaning cloth

Trombone: slide oil

Oboe and Bassoon: two soft reeds with reed case

Clarinet and Saxophone: size two reeds, swab, and cork grease.

Trumpet: valve oil and slide cream

Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass: rosin, polishing cloth, and an extra set of strings

Percussion:

All students should try to rent/purchase a percussion “backpack”. The backpack should include a set of bells, a drum pad, a pair of drumsticks, and a pair of bell mallets. Ludwig, Remo, and Yamaha, all make acceptable equipment. If you are unable to get a “backpack”, get a pair of **Size 2B drumsticks, a drumpad, and a *Standard of Excellence*, book one for Drums/Mallets Percussion.**

d. Grading

Student’s grade will depend on attendance, effort in class, and practice at home. In order for students to enjoy their musical experience, practice must occur. At least fifteen minutes of practice a day, four to seven days a week, is ideal.

Practice sheets will be passed out and turned in each week to make sure students are using their time effectively. There will be no required amount of practice time for the students to have. Rehearsals are not considered as practice time. All students will be performing 2 to 4 times a year, and not all performances will be on campus. We may also perform at the Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade in May 2009. If your child is unable to attend a performance a note is requested at least two weeks before.

North Torrance Instrumental Music
Back-to-School Nights
For New Instrumental Music Students

FOR STRINGS ONLY



Thursday, September 11, 2008
3:30pm - 5:00pm

Sean Brennan Violin Shop

1308 Satori Ave. #208
Just north of La Capilla Restaurant
(310) 618-8580

FOR ALL NEW INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC STUDENTS



Tuesday, September 9, 2008
3:30pm - 6:00pm

Saturday, September 13 2008
10:00am - 3:00pm

Marshall Music Store

503 Van Ness Blvd Torrance
Located between Del Amo and Torrance Blvd, on the west side of the street.
(310) 320-0246

Wednesday, September 10 2008
3:30pm - 8:30pm

Friday, September 12 2008
3:30pm - 7:00pm

Opus Music

2219 Torrance Blvd Torrance
Located between Van Ness and railroad tracks on the North side of the street.
(310) 618-1185



Recommended brands of instruments and local music vendors

a. Renting vs. purchasing

For all new students, I strongly recommend that you **rent your instrument**. Be careful before purchasing any instrument that may seem like a good deal. Feel free to call and/or email me if you have any questions. *Note: Violin students may want to purchase quality, inexpensive instruments (around \$200). Please ask me for more details.*

b. Recommended instruments

This list is based on brands of student instruments that have worked well for my past students.

Flute: Alpine, Armstrong, Gemeinhardt, Pearl, Selmer, and Yamaha.

Oboe: Fox, Selmer, and Yamaha.

Bassoon: Fox (Renard), Schreiber, and Yamaha.

Clarinet: Armstrong, Buffet, Bundy, Selmer, Vito, and Yamaha

Saxophone: Selmer, Yamaha, Vito,

Trumpet: Yamaha, Getzen, Bach/Selmer, Blessing

Trombone: Yamaha, Bach/Selmer, Blessing

Strings: Glassel, Gill, Suzuki

c. Local music stores, call stores to compare rental policies, prices, and for supplies in stock:

AMUSE Music Store

43C Peninsula Center
(310) 377-7838
Palos Verdes
Open on Sunday

Bellflower Music

17019 Bellflower Blvd.
Bellflower 90706
(562) 867-6715

Marshall Music Store

503 Van Ness Blvd.
Torrance, 90505
(310) 320-0246
Will have music supplies; has been serving Torrance - South Bay for years.

Maury Music Store

4834 Woodruff Ave
Lakewood
(562) 420-9532
An outstanding store for both strings & band

Opus Music

2219 Torrance Blvd
Torrance, 90501
(310) 618-1185
Also offers private lessons for all orchestral instruments.

Sam Ash Music Store

12651 Artesia Blvd (south of the 91 Fwy)
Cerritos, 90703
(562) 468-1107
Ask for Dave Najjar for assistance

World of Strings

2222 Bellflower Blvd
Long Beach 90815
(562) 599-3913

Other outstanding specialty stores in Torrance and locally:

Sean Brennan Violin Shop

1308 Sartori Avenue #208
Torrance 90501
(310) 618-8580
An outstanding selection of string instruments and provides expert repair.
Call for appointment.

Ogura Flute Works

18187 Van Ness Ave.
Torrance, 90504
(310) 532-1164
Has an outstanding selection of flutes and provides expert repair.

Common questions.

- a. **Is any prior musical knowledge required to participate in the instrumental music program?**

Absolutely not, though any musical background would give new instrumental music students an advantage. I assume that any new music student has had no prior musical experience.

- b. **My child does not have the time to participate in the instrumental program.**

The music program takes up very little school time. The only day where significant time will be required is on the day of the Torrance Armed Forces Day Parade. Before and after school rehearsals are not required (but are available) to participate in the instrumental music program.

- c. **Are there any school instruments available?**

There are only a few district instruments available, mostly large brass instruments. Please call me if you have any questions regarding availability.

- d. **Are private lessons necessary to be successful?**

Though there is nothing better than one on one instruction, your child will get everything they need in my class to get a good start. If you are interested in getting your child a private instructor, please call me for references of good teachers in the South Bay.

- e. **Why should my child participate?**

Research has shown that music education improves a student's study skills and concentration. It is estimated that over 85% of all lawyers and doctors have participated in instrumental music. In the short term those students who go into middle school playing in band or orchestra have a much easier time transitioning into it. I guarantee that I will do everything I can to make your child's instructional musical experience a meaningful one.

- f. **How much does it cost to participate in the instrumental music program?**

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM, other than material fees such as instruments, music, etc. The Torrance Unified School District provides the instrumental music program for your child.

Why Music?

A good instrumental music education can develop these skills in all students.

Creative development

Develop higher brain function

Developing spatial skills

Improves reading and math performance

Self-discipline

Raises IQ Scores

Enhances communication skills

Develop physical coordination

Teamwork discipline

Teaches the habit of excellence

Cultural awareness

Develops quick and decisive thinking

Critical thinking skills

Enhances cooperation

Self-esteem

Develop timing and memory skills

Become better listeners

Develop visual, aural and language skills

Develop intelligence

Sense of accomplishment

Music students find success in school, society, and life

Resources for this information are from the Yamaha Corporation of America, band and orchestra division and the National Association of Music Education and their website www.menc.org