



SESD Beginning Band & Orchestra F.A.Q.

Dear Students & Parents,

It is time for your student to decide if s/he would like to play an instrument!
South Eastern School District offers Band and String lessons beginning in Fourth Grade.

1. We would like you and your child to read through this entire letter together.
2. Discuss with your child IF they would like to play an instrument, and if so,
3. WHICH 1 or 2 instruments they are most interested in.

WHAT INSTRUMENTS CAN I CHOOSE FROM?

SESD offers beginning lessons in the following instruments in 4TH Grade:

STRINGS	WOODWINDS	BRASS	PERCUSSION
VIOLIN	FLUTE	FRENCH HORN	MALLET PERCUSSION*
VIOLA	OBOE	TRUMPET	
CELLO	CLARINET	TROMBONE	*Students will begin
STRING BASS	ALTO SAXOPHONE	BARITONE (TUBA)	Snare drum in year 2.

DOES THIS COST ANYTHING?

Families, please understand that there are financial factors that come along with this commitment.

- We recommend renting an instrument so that if your child decides later that the instrument they have chosen is not for them, you have not invested a large amount of money in an instrument.
- Menchey's Music (www.mencheymusic.com) serves our school with a "Rent-to-Own" program, and they visit our schools on a weekly basis throughout the school year.
- Additionally, the music department may be able to loan out a very limited number of band instruments, and certain string instruments. (Please note that this offer and the availability of these instruments does change each year, so please email the music department to see what is available.)

HOW DO WE DECIDE WHICH INSTRUMENT TO PICK?

In the next few weeks, Miss Best and Miss Spina will be meeting with your students so that they can begin to make their choice of instrument.

- On Wednesday, August 27, 2025, we will have an assembly at each of the elementary buildings where we will bring Kennard-Dale High School Band and Orchestra students to demonstrate each instrument. We will be instructing your children on how to make their choice and the different factors they should consider.
- It is very important that your child chooses an instrument that **they** are interested in so that they are invested in the practice of the instrument.

WHEN AND WHERE CAN I OBTAIN AN INSTRUMENT?

- Monthly fees vary, depending on the instrument.
- You can get an idea of cost from Menchey's website www.mencheymusic.com or by clicking on these links:

- [MENCHEY MUSIC BAND INSTRUMENT FLIER](#)
- [MENCHEY MUSIC STRING INSTRUMENT FLIER](#)

WOODWIND & BRASS STUDENTS NEED:		PERCUSSION STUDENTS NEED	STRING STUDENTS NEED: (To be sized before renting as well.)	
Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1 - \$11.99 *Be sure to specify instrument		Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1 for COMBINED PERCUSSION - \$16.99	Sound Innovations for String Orchestra - \$11.99 *Be sure to specify instrument	
	<u>FLUTE BOOK 1</u> <u>OBOE BOOK 1</u> <u>Bb CLARINET BOOK 1</u> <u>Eb ALTO SAXOPHONE BOOK 1</u> <u>Bb TRUMPET BOOK 1</u> <u>HORN IN F BOOK 1</u> <u>TROMBONE BOOK 1</u> <u>BARITONE B.C. BOOK 1</u>			<u>VIOLIN BOOK 1</u> <u>VIOLA BOOK 1</u> <u>CELLO BOOK 1</u> <u>STRING BASS BOOK 1</u>
*Woodwinds need to purchase Reeds - Size 2.5 for their specific instrument.			*Violins & Violas need to purchase a Shoulder Rest based on Size of Instrument.	
ALL BAND & STRING STUDENTS WILL NEED:				
<u>ALL students need a music stand for home practice - \$15.00</u> Any other accessories that are recommended for their specific instrument.				

WHY CAN'T I JUST GET AN INSTRUMENT ON THE INTERNET?

IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS!

- You may choose to use another music company to get an instrument, however, Menchey Music services our school district weekly on Fridays.
- If there are any problems with the instruments it can easily be sent for repair.

WE CAUTION AGAINST PURCHASING INSTRUMENTS FROM INTERNET SITES, DISCOUNT STORES, MEMBERSHIP STORES, ETC.

ALWAYS CHECK WITH MISS SPINA OR MISS BEST BEFORE PURCHASING!

- Often these instruments are not good quality!
- Many times instruments that are very inexpensive, are poorly made, difficult to keep in tune, and may end up costing you more in repair and maintenance expenses.
- An instrument that is of poor quality will make it more difficult for your child to be successful on their chosen instrument.
- Also, any problems with those instruments will be the financial responsibility of the parents.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE AN INSTRUMENT?

- If you currently have an instrument that was yours or from a friend or family member, please contact Miss Best for String Instruments or Miss Spina for Band Instruments.
- We will need to check the instrument to see if it needs any repairs or maintenance, or in the case of a String Instrument, that it is the right size, so that your child can be successful in their lessons.

WHAT INSTRUMENTS ARE ALLOWED ON THE BUS?

- Please be advised of the South Eastern School District School Board Policy #810, which relates to the transportation of musical instruments on district school buses.
- The district policy states, **“Objects too large to be held on a student’s lap while in transit, are not permitted”**.
- So that your child can travel safely, the following list of musical instruments will not be permitted on the school bus and must be transported to and from your child’s school by another means of transportation. The list includes, but is not limited to: Cellos, String Basses, Baritones/Euphoniums, or Bell Kits.
- Also, due to the different sizes of students, your child may be told by his/her bus driver or school administrator that his/her instrument is too large to transport safely on the bus, and therefore, other transportation must be arranged.
- The music department feels it is essential that transportation regulations be made available to parents and students before an instrument is chosen.
- If there happens to be an empty seat on your child’s bus, it will only be at the discretion of each bus driver, if there is adequate room on a bus to safely transport one of these instruments.

HOW MUCH PRACTICE TIME IS MY CHILD EXPECTED TO DO AT HOME?

- In their first year, our expectation is that your child makes practicing a routine part of their day.
- Our experience has shown that it is the best way for them to retain the information and to be successful with their new instrument.
- Practicing a short amount of time over several days works better than a large amount of time on one or two days.
- So, we would ask that you help your child to try to set aside 10 minutes on 5 - 6 days a week.
- Assignments will be listed on each teacher’s Google Classroom.

HOW OFTEN DOES MY CHILD RECEIVE A LESSON?

- Band & Orchestra Students receive one 30 minute lesson within each four-day cycle.
- Every Band & Orchestra member in our school district is also provided with a Standard Student **Make Music Cloud** Account for home practicing.
- We will send home more information on this later, but if you would like to start looking into what Make Music Cloud is, now, here is a website to show you: makemusic.com

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD?

In order for Miss Best and Miss Spina to be aware that your child should be added to their rosters, you MUST register your child.

[SESD INSTRUMENT LESSONS REGISTRATION FORM](#)

- Each of the 4th Grade Classroom Teachers will be given the link to the registration form to post on their Class Dojo or Google Classroom Pages.
- You may also use the QR Code included below that will take you directly to the SESD Music Department website, where you will be able to find a copy of this letter, along with a direct link to the Registration Form, and many other resources.
- First lessons with Miss Best & Miss Spina are on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 & Thursday, September 11, 2025,...
- **so the instrument recruitment/registration window ends Friday, September 5, 2025.** It is very important that we receive your child’s registration before that time.
- Students will receive their instruments and materials to bring home at their first lesson, after they have been instructed on the proper care for the instrument.

WHAT IF I’M CONCERNED ABOUT THE COST?

- We completely understand that these are difficult times financially for everyone.
- **We never want any child to not have the opportunity to participate in our Band or String program due to the cost.**
- Please don’t hesitate to contact us or your child’s classroom teacher if you are concerned about this.
- We have many ways of helping you obtain an instrument **COST FREE!!**

- **WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU! :-)**

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

On **Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 6:00 PM**, we will be holding an evening meeting for parents and students at **SEMS** (South Eastern Middle School).

- SEDS Music Staff and Menchey's Music representatives will both be there to present information on how the SEDS Instrumental Program works as well as Menchey's Rent-to-Own Program.
- If you are interested in borrowing an instrument from SEDS this would be a good time to discuss this with the SEDS teachers.
- If you have an instrument at home that your child plans on using, please bring it in so that the teachers may check it to make sure it is in good condition for your child to be successful in their lessons.
- **We will also be offering INSTRUMENT TRIAL STATIONS!!!** Students will be able to try out the instruments before they make their final choices!!
- **We will have plenty of Hand Sanitizer and specialized sanitizer spray for mouth pieces on Wind Instruments. So, whatever your comfort level is, we will completely understand.**

FINALLY...

- **THIS MEETING IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** for anyone planning to participate in Band or Orchestra.
- We will be sharing **VERY** important information regarding how the Instrumental program works in SEDS.
- If you are unable to attend, please contact one of the instrumental teachers below.

Please email the teachers with any further questions.

STRINGS

Miss Amy S. Best
South Eastern School District
Director of Orchestra (Grades 4-8)
besta@sesdrams.org

BAND

Miss Carly Spina
South Eastern School District
Director of Bands (Grades 4-6)
spinac@sesdrams.org

**For more information,
access to all links, &
STUDENT REGISTRATION:**

