

May 13, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians of Students currently in **Grade 3**, moving to **Grade 4** September 2020,

I hope you are staying well during this difficult time. As we look forward to the fall, our music department needs to plan ahead for instrumental instruction for your student. We are glad to offer instrumental music lessons to all Cranford Public School students and the valuable educational experience that music-making provides. Research shows that students who play an instrument are more academically successful and playing in an ensemble promotes a variety of skills including collaboration, empathy, and creativity.

I know there is a great deal of uncertainty at this time and you may be unsure whether you want to commit to an instrument right now. But we ask that if your child has any interest in playing an instrument, that you sign up. If circumstances change in the fall, our music teachers will be extremely understanding and sensitive to those issues. However, by signing up now, we're able to ensure that we will have the appropriate resources in September to provide instrumental instruction to all students who request it.

This week your child's general music teacher will be engaging students in an activity introducing third graders to the band instruments, with videos from our instrumental teachers demonstrating the instruments. That activity can be found here <https://forms.gle/7tc7grbmALHq689S7> and we encourage you to participate in that with your child.

In Grade 3, students had the opportunity to choose a string instrument: the violin, viola or cello. In Grade 4, band instruments are offered to students, or students may choose to continue with their string instrument. The band instruments include the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, and percussion.

When you decide to participate in our instrumental program, you will be responsible for providing your child with an instrument and necessary accessories. A method book will be provided if you choose our recommended vendors. Instruments are available from music dealers on a rental/purchase plan at reasonable rates. Our recommended vendor for band instrument rental is Elefante Music and their contact information is on the next page. As a beginning student, please utilize these rental vendors, as they include maintenance and size upgrades as students grow. Please check with the individual dealer on the specifics of their rental contract. We do not recommend purchasing an instrument for beginners, but if you are interested in purchasing please contact your child's music teacher first. If you have any questions about rental or purchase of an instrument, please do not hesitate to reach out to our music staff.

Once you choose an instrument and sign a rental contract with a vendor, the instruments will be delivered directly to your school for lessons to begin in mid-September. We are asking that you **do not pick-up** the instrument on your own unless you intend on having your child start lessons with a summer program. It is very important that the music teacher instructs your child how to unpack and use the instrument. Often instruments are damaged unnecessarily because a student has the instrument out at home before receiving necessary instruction.

Please fill out this [Google Form](#) to let us know if your child intends on participating in our string program

next year. The link will also be available on the Cranford Public Schools website. You must complete the registration by **June 5, 2020**. <https://forms.gle/9cFCox49rv4JS1h4A>

If you have any questions concerning our music program, please feel free to contact me or your child's music teacher. Be well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony Rafaniello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Rafaniello".

Anthony Rafaniello, Supervisor of Fine & Performing Arts

The Instrumental Music Staff:

Brookside Place School

Mr. DiFabio - Band alex.difabio@cranfordschools.org

Ms. Lee – Strings lee@cranfordschools.org

Hillside Avenue School

Mr. Falisi – Band falisi@cranfordschools.org

Mr. DiFabio – Band alex.difabio@cranfordschools.org

Mr. Topielski – Strings topielski@cranfordschools.org

Livingston Avenue School

Ms. McDonald – Band mcdonald@cranfordschools.org

Ms. Lee – Strings lee@cranfordschools.org

Orange Avenue School

Ms. Holodak – Band holodak@cranfordschools.org

Mr. DiFabio – Band alex.difabio@cranfordschools.org

Mr. Jackson – Strings jonathan.jackson@cranfordschools.org

Recommended Instrumental Dealer:

Elefante Music, 1790 Springfield Ave, New Providence, NJ 07974 (908) 464-5928

<https://www.shopelefantemusic.com/topic.aspx?name=online%20rentals> School Code: 89482020