



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - GISB Music Program

This is a living document and will be updated as new questions arise.

*Last updated: June 27, 2025.*

### Program Overview

#### What instruments can my child learn in the program?

In grades 1-4, students can choose between violin or cello / 2 x week.

Updated: In grade 4 students can **also** choose to play flute, saxophone or clarinet or trumpet / 1 x week.

Updated: In grade 5-6, students can choose to play flute, saxophone, clarinet or trumpet / 1 x week.

Updated: In grade 5-6, students can **also** choose between violin or cello / 1 x week.

#### Is the GISB Ensemble in the LC / or the GISB Symphony at the UC open to all students?

At the Lower Campus students in Vorschule - grade 3 are welcome to join the GISB Ensemble regardless of whether they participate in the After School Program (ASP). Every child enrolled in the small group lessons will be able to join an age appropriate ensemble that will prepare small performances or join the GISB Symphony for events

The GISB Symphony at the Upper Campus is open and free to students in grades 4-12 who have participated in two years of group or private instrumental instruction, or bring experience in ensemble or other orchestra. Students do not need to be enrolled in Student Life to participate in the GISB Symphony.

#### Will my child have the opportunity to perform in an ensemble or orchestra?

Every child enrolled in the small group lessons will be able to join an age appropriate ensemble that will prepare small performances or join the GISB Symphony for events.

The GISB Symphony at the Upper Campus is open and free to students in grade 4-12 who have participated in two years of group or private instrumental instruction, or bring experience in ensemble or other orchestra.

### **Are the instrumental lessons integrated into the school day or after school?**

Enrolled students will receive small group instructions on an orchestral instrument during the school day.

### **My child is in Preschool, Pre-K, or Kindergarten (Vorschule). Can they participate in the GISB Instrumental Program?**

The GISB program caters to elementary and middle school students (grades 1-6). With enough interest, the in-school program can potentially grow to include Kindergarten (Vorschule) students.

### **Are Private Instrumental Lessons available on Both Campuses?**

Afternoon private instrumental lessons will be available to students aged 5 and up on both campuses, subject to teacher availability. General age guidelines for specific instruments are as follows:

Piano: Ages 5+

Recorder: Ages 6+

Voice: Ages 8+

Final enrollment decisions are made by the individual instructors and may vary based on a student's readiness, interest, or—where appropriate—an informal audition.

Families do **not** need to enroll in the After School Program, as long as they drop off and pick up their child directly before and after the private instrumental lesson.

A list of available teachers and their contact information will be posted on the [GISB Music Program website](#) and on Jumbula. Parents will contact instrumental teachers directly to arrange lessons.

## **Registration and Enrollment**

### **How do I register my child for the instrumental program?**

In June, parents will be invited to complete a (non-binding) general interest form regarding fall participation. This information will assist us in planning and coordination.

Registration for Lower Campus programs will open in July and for Upper Campus programs in mid-August. All registrations will be done through Jumbula.

**When is the registration deadline for the instrumental program?**

Registration for Lower Campus programs will open in July and for Upper Campus programs in mid-August. All registrations will be done through Jumbula on a first-come, first-served basis, so early registration is encouraged.

**Can I register my child for the program after the registration deadline?**

Yes, if there is room.

**If I miss the registration deadline, can my child still join the program later in the year?**

As long as there is space, students can enroll at a later point. Late registration may require a few individual lessons (different rates apply) to help the student catch up to the group's level.

**What happens if I change my mind about enrolling my child in the program after registration?**

Registration is a full-year commitment. Students may choose to withdraw at the end of each school year, but fees are non-refundable.

**Can my child switch instruments during the program?**

Ideally, the Instrumental Petting Zoo held in the spring—as well as individual introductions of all available instruments during your child's music lessons—have helped inform your child's choice of instrument.

Learning an instrument requires patience and a long-term commitment. Therefore, switching instruments is not allowed. However, individual circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis, if needed. Teachers may make recommendations if a change is deemed appropriate. Students may choose to withdraw at the end of each school year.

**Are there any trial lessons available before committing to the full program?**

Ideally, the Instrumental Petting Zoo held in the spring—as well as individual introductions of all available instruments during your child's music lessons—have helped inform your child's choice of instrument. After such instrumental tryouts, students tend to have a good feel for which instrument suits them best. We hope no changes are necessary. Individual circumstances will be reviewed if necessary. Students may choose to withdraw at the end of each school year.

## **Commitment and Participation**

**Is participation in the GISB Instrumental Program a commitment for one semester or for the entire school year?**

Participation in the GISB Instrumental Program is a full-year commitment. Ideally, students remain in the program for multiple years to support their long-term musical development. However, registration and confirmation of participation are required each spring for the upcoming school year.

**Can my child start lessons mid-semester if we register after the program has started?**

While not ideal, it is possible to integrate a student after the program has begun. Late registration may require a few individual lessons (different rates apply) to help the student catch up to the group's level.

## **Fees and Payment**

**What is the cost of the small group in-school instrumental lessons?**

**Violin/Cello Small Group Lessons – \$550 / semester**

These lessons take place **twice a week**, totaling **34 lessons per semester**. Available to students in **grades 1–4**.

**Flute/Trumpet/Saxophone or Clarinet Small Group Lessons – \$375 / semester**

These lessons take place **once a week**, totaling **17 lessons per semester**. Available to students in **grades 4–6**.

**Violin/Cello/Saxophone or Clarinet Small Group Lessons – \$375 / semester**

These lessons take place **once a week**, totaling **17 lessons per semester**. Available to students in **grades 5–6**.

**Are there any additional fees for participating in the instrumental program aside from the lesson fees?**

Parents can rent instruments directly from [David French Music](#). Instruments will be delivered to GISB before the start of the program.

Approximate fee overview:

Flute: \$34 per month

Trumpet: \$34 per month

Violin: \$34 per month

Cello: \$48 per month

Saxophone: TBD

Clarinet: TBD

**How do I pay for the instrumental lessons and other fees?**

Program fees are to be paid through Jumbula in two advance installments—one at the beginning of each semester.

**Is there a discount if multiple children are enrolled in the instrumental program?**

Not at this point.

**Are the costs for the Lower and Upper Campus programs the same?**

Students in grades 1-3 (Lower Campus) receive lessons twice a week. In 4th grade (at the Upper Campus) lessons also take place twice a week. For grades 5 and 6 (Upper Campus) small group lessons are held once a week. As a result, the cost varies by grade level.

## **Logistics and Scheduling**

**How many students will be in each instrumental group for the lessons?**

Groups consist of approximately 3 to 5 students. If fewer students enroll, the lessons will not take place.

**What happens when there are more than 5 students?**

If enrollment exceeds 5 students, new groups may be formed or a waitlist established, subject to teacher availability.

**When will the instrumental lessons take place during the school day or after school?**

The instrumental group lessons will take place during the school day. Private instruction is also available after the school day as part of our After School Offerings.

**How long is each instrumental lesson session, and how often will they occur?**

Lessons are 45 minutes long. They take place twice a week for students in grades 1–4, and once a week for students in grades 4, 5, and 6 who choose to study flute or trumpet.

**Will the instrumental group lessons be scheduled at a consistent time each week?**

Yes

## **Instrument Rental**

### **Will my child need to rent an instrument for the program?**

While it is possible to purchase a violin or cello, [renting](#) is often a better option—especially for younger students who are still growing and may need a different instrument size over time.

### **Are there any additional costs for instrument rentals?**

Students can enroll in the rental program through [David French Music](#). All rental instruments can be delivered to GISB at the beginning of the school year and distributed through the school.

## **Other Choices, Program Withdrawal and Changes**

### **What happens if my child does not want to enroll in the instrumental program?**

All students who do not enroll in the instrumental program will automatically participate in music classes—such as recorder, singing, or choir—taught by our GISB music teachers. Collaboration between all groups takes place in preparation for school events and performances.

### **Is there a long-term commitment required for the program?**

It is recommended that students participate in our instrumental program for a minimum of two years, ideally four, to gain the full benefits. Our group lessons provide a solid foundation and foster significant progress, which can subsequently be enhanced through private lessons. Please note that students may opt to withdraw at the conclusion of each academic year.

Learning an instrument requires regular practice and long-term commitment, which are key to your child's success and enjoyment.

### **If my child already plays the violin, is he or she eligible to participate in the in-school string program?**

Absolutely. Our teacher will make every effort to engage students of all levels in meaningful, challenging, and developmentally appropriate ways. Students who do not enroll in the instrumental program will automatically participate in general music classes—such as recorder or choir—taught by our GISB music faculty. Collaboration between all groups is an integral part of preparing for school events and performances. All teachers include instruction in music theory and general musical skills as part of the repertoire.