Wampus Instrumental Music

Third Grade Parent Night:
Introduction to the Instrumental Music Program

Monday, February 6, 2023
7:00 - 7:45pm
Wampus Cafetorium
Dear Third Grade Parents,

Welcome to the Byram Hills Instrumental Program. We hope your child’s participation in instrumental music instruction provides many years of rewarding musical experiences and the foundation for a lifelong appreciation of culture and the arts.

The instrumental program consists of two distinct performing ensembles: the string orchestra and the band. The 4th grade string orchestra encompasses the instruments of the string family: violin, viola, cell, and string bass. The 4th grade band includes the instruments from the woodwind and brass families.

During the 4th grade, instrumental students receive weekly small group lessons on their instrument during the Encore period. Lessons are taught by members of the Byram Hills instrumental faculty. During lesson time, students learn basic instrumental technique, rudiments of ensemble playing, and music reading skills.

Fourth grade instrumental students participate in two performances during the school year. In January, each Encore class presents a recital and parents are invited to attend. In the spring, the 4th grade instrumental students are assembled for the first time as an orchestra and a band. After several ensemble rehearsals, the students present their first concert for their parents in June.

If you choose to enroll your child in the Wampus Instrumental Program, your child’s schedule will be created to include a lesson class for the entire school year. Instrumental study is an academic placement and students are enrolled in this program for an entire school year. Students are not permitted to change their schedule or drop this program after September 22, 2023.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me via email at PPauliks@byramhills.net or by telephone at 914-273-9200 X4501.

Sincerely

Pete Pauliks
Director of Fine Arts

The Wampus Instrumental Music Faculty

Andrew Hill  Ken Pearson  William Petito  Adelle St. Onge  David Wolfe
2023 Grade 3: Instrumental Placement Process ~ Wampus

Calendar of Events

January/February

General Music Instrument Unit: All third grade students will study a comprehensive unit on the instruments in their general music class. Each student will select three instruments they find most appealing. Grade 4 instrument offerings include: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, Violin, Viola, Cello, String Bass

Monday, February 6th

Third Grade Parent Meeting for Instrumental Placement, 7:00pm: Please join us with your third grade student for this informative evening. Parents and their third-grade child will be introduced to the members of the Byram Hills Instrumental Faculty who will be available to answer any questions. Each instrument will be demonstrated by a faculty member and by HCC students.

Tuesday, February 7th

Deadline to complete Musical Profile Form

Wednesday, February 8th

Grade 3 Assembly with Instrument Demonstration: Students will attend an assembly program where each instrument offered for instruction in the fourth grade will be presented. A high school student or a member of the instrumental faculty will demonstrate each instrument.

February 13th - 16th

During these four days, each third grade class will be scheduled for a Hands-On experience with musical instruments. During this special class time, all third grade students will have the opportunity to try their top three instrument choices. The members of the instrumental music faculty and students from the high school instrumental program will assist the third grade students.

March 3rd

Instrumental placement recommendations will be mailed home to parents. After receiving the placement recommendation letter, parents will register their child for Grade 4 instrumental lessons. (Registration deadline is Friday, March 24, 2023.)
Welcome to the Instrumental Music Program at Byram Hills!

We believe music is a vital part of a well-rounded education for our students. Please find below some benefits of music education, as compiled by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

**Note:** If you choose to enroll your child in the Wampus Instrumental Music Program, your child’s schedule will be created to include a lesson class (sectional) for the entire school year. **Students are not permitted to change their schedule or drop this program after September 22, 2023.**

**Benefits of Music Education**

1. **Musical training helps develop language and reasoning:** Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.

2. **A mastery of memorization:** Even when performing with sheet music, student musicians are constantly using their memory to perform. The skill of memorization can serve students well in education and beyond.

3. **Students learn to improve their work:** Learning music promotes craftsmanship, and students learn to want to create good work instead of mediocre work. This desire can be applied to all subjects of study.

4. **Increased coordination:** Students who practice with musical instruments can improve their hand-eye coordination. Just like playing sports, children can develop motor skills when playing music.

5. **A sense of achievement:** Learning to play pieces of music on a new instrument can be a challenging, but achievable goal. Students who master even the smallest goal in music will be able to feel proud of their achievement.

6. **Kids stay engaged in school:** An enjoyable subject like music can keep kids interested and engaged in school. Student musicians are likely to stay in school and to achieve in other subjects.

7. **Success in society:** Music is the fabric of our society, and music can shape abilities and character. Students in band or orchestra are less likely to abuse substances over their lifetime. Musical education can greatly contribute to children’s intellectual development as well.
8. Emotional development: Students of music can be more emotionally developed, with empathy towards other cultures. They also tend to have higher self-esteem and are better at coping with anxiety.

9. Students learn pattern recognition: Children can develop their math and pattern-recognition skills with the help of musical education. Playing music offers repetition in a fun format.

10. Fine-tuned auditory skills: Musicians can better detect meaningful, information-bearing elements in sounds, like the emotional meaning in a baby’s cry. Students who practice music can have better auditory attention, and pick out predictable patterns from surrounding noise.

11. Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity: Introducing music in the early childhood years can help foster a positive attitude toward learning and curiosity. Artistic education develops the whole brain and develops a child’s imagination.

12. Music can be relaxing: Students can fight stress by learning to play music. Soothing music is especially helpful in helping kids relax.

13. Musical instruments can teach discipline: Kids who learn to play an instrument can learn a valuable lesson in discipline. They will have to set time aside to practice and rise to the challenge of learning with discipline to master playing their instrument.

14. Preparation for the creative economy: Investing in creative education can prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The new economy has created more artistic careers, and these jobs may grow faster than others in the future.

15. Development in creative thinking: Kids who study the arts can learn to think creatively. This kind of education can help them solve problems by thinking outside the box and realizing that there may be more than one right answer.

16. Music can develop spatial intelligence: Students who study music can improve the development of spatial intelligence, which allows them to perceive the world accurately and form mental pictures. Spatial intelligence is helpful for advanced mathematics and more.

17. Kids can learn teamwork: Many musical education programs require teamwork as part of a band or orchestra. In these groups, students will learn how to work together and build camaraderie.

18. Responsible risk-taking: Performing a musical piece can bring fear and anxiety. Doing so teaches kids how to take risks and deal with fear, which will help them become successful and reach their potential.

19. Better self-confidence: With encouragement from teachers and parents, students playing a musical instrument can build pride and confidence. Musical education is also likely to develop better communication for students.
A PARENT’S GUIDE:

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD CHOOSE AN INSTRUMENT

Choosing a musical instrument to study is an exciting prospect. Children love the idea of learning to create music by playing an instrument. But how do you know which instrument to choose? Will your child experience greater success if a specific instrument is selected? The instrumental teachers offer the following basic guidelines to consider when helping your child through the instrumental selection process.

1. Student Interest

The strongest factor in determining a child’s success in instrumental study is student interest. Your child should show a genuine curiosity about the instrument he or she selects. Parents should encourage their child to describe the qualities of the instrument that are appealing.

2. Physical Characteristics

*Embouchure.* The embouchure is a combination of the child’s teeth and mouth. A child’s dental structure and the size, shape or thickness of his/her lips will help determine the instrument that is best for the child. If your child has braces, or if your child will be getting braces in the near future, it is best to communicate that information to the music faculty. Braces can affect the ability to form a correct embouchure for some instruments. Your music teacher can offer assistance as your child begins the instrumental selection process.

*Physical Size.* A child’s hand size is an important factor to consider when selecting an instrument. Students with unusually small hands will experience difficulty with some instruments.

*Gross & Fine Motor Skill Development.* A child’s motor skill development is another important factor to consider when selecting an instrument to study. If you have concerns about your child’s motor skill development, your music teacher can make recommendations on the instruments that might be better choices for your child.

*Asthma.* Students with asthma can play a musical instrument! In fact, playing the correct instrument can be beneficial for an asthmatic student. Your music teacher can help select an instrument that will be comfortable and will provide an opportunity for success for your child.
3. **Home Practice Information.**

The instrumental teachers record a weekly practice score for each student throughout the school year. Students in Grade 4 should practice their instrument at home at least four days per week for 10 minutes per day. Parent signatures are required on weekly student practice sheets. If your child will not have time to practice his/her instrument at home, instrumental study is not a recommended elective for his/her academic program.

It is recommended that parents help establish a regular schedule for instrumental practice in a quiet place in your home. We also encourage students to play for family and friends whenever you gather for a family dinner or to celebrate a special occasion.

Your child will be able to access home practice assignments on-line through Smart Music. Smart Music is a music software program that is used to support student learning and home practice. You will be able to access Smart Music from your home computer (PC or Mac) or from your tablet. Parents and students will learn more about Smart Music through their child’s instrument teacher in the fall.

4. **Renting an Instrument**

The Byram Hills Music Department recognizes that, for the first few years of band or orchestra study, rental of an instrument is a more prudent option than making a purchase.

- **Rental Considerations**
  - Starting and ending date of contract
  - Repair policy
  - Pick up/drop off policy
  - Loaner Instrument

- **Recommended sizes for beginning string students are as follows:**
  - Violin-1/2 size
  - Viola-13”
  - Cello-1/2 size
  - String bass-1/4 size
  - If possible, take your child with you because the rental company can help fit the instrument to your child.

- **Please consult with an instrumental teacher before making any instrument purchase.**
5. Rental Pricing Information

(Subject to change by vendor)
Oboe $160.00 - $300.00
Flute $80.00 - $160.00
Clarinet $80.00 - $160.00
Trumpet $80.00 - $160.00
Trombone $80.00 - $160.00
Baritone Horn $210.00 - $350.00
Violin $80.00 - $210.00
Viola $80.00 - $210.00
Cello $200.00 - $325.00
String Bass $300.00 - $450.00

6. Recommended Home Practice Guidelines for Student Success

Instrumental study is an academic placement. To achieve success in this course of study, home practice is an expectation of the band and orchestra lesson program.

- My child has the time to practice at least 4 days each week for 10 minutes.
- My child has an appropriate place to practice every day, free from distractions.
- My child has a secure place to keep an instrument, a music stand and instrumental supplies for home practice every day.
- My child will have access to a computer or tablet to use the music software program Smart Music with some of their home practice assignments.
- I have time to listen to my child practice and offer support and encouragement.

Please scan the following QR code to complete and submit the Musical Profile Form by Tuesday, February 7, 2023. You may also secure and submit a printed form through your child’s music teacher.

SCAN QR CODE OR CLICK HERE
Hands-On Placement Recommendation for Students

During the Hands-On process, students will be assessed on a rubric that evaluates the following four areas for each instrument the student tries:

- Hold instrument properly
- Fingers reaching all of the valves, keys or strings of the instrument
- Proper bow grip or forming proper embouchure
- Producing tone

The Music Faculty will recommend the best placement for each student based on the hands-on instrumental session, the information provided on the musical profile form and the student’s first or second instrument choice. In grade 4, students may choose from the following instruments:

**Band**

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Oboe
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Baritone

**Orchestra**

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- String Bass
Looking forward...

There are more options available for students as they progress on their instruments. While switching instruments is not recommended for most students, there are some exceptions. By design, some instruments are introduced later in the program. These instruments require a high level of technical facility and musicianship and are best suited to students who possess a strong musical foundation.

- **Percussion** - Students may audition for percussion in the spring of Grade 4. (Steady beat, musical independence, self-discipline, and coordination are essential.)

- **Woodwinds** - Students may audition for alto/tenor saxophone in the spring of Grade 4. (Study of flute, clarinet, or oboe is most helpful in preparing for saxophone.)

- **Brass** - Students may audition for French horn in the spring of Grade 4. (Study of trumpet, trombone, or baritone is most helpful in preparing for French horn.)

In Grade 6, 7, and 8, students may be invited to play a more advanced instrument to meet the needs of the ensemble and the instrumentation of the repertoire. Instruments may include:

- Piccolo
- Bass Clarinet
- Bassoon
- Baritone Saxophone
- Tuba
Instrument Rental Information

The Byram Hills Music Department recognizes that for the first few years of band or orchestra study, rental of an instrument is a more prudent option than making a purchase. In response to parent inquiries, we’ve created this resource list for your use. Families can rent instruments from any company that is convenient for them. The list below includes companies that have worked with our families during past years with favorable results.

Most rental companies will apply the rental cost to the purchase price of an instrument if you decide to purchase. If your child chooses to continue instrumental study beyond their first year, the student will most likely benefit from advancing to a better quality instrument and set up (mouthpiece, ligature and reed), then eventually advance to an intermediate or professional quality instrument. It is recommended that you consult with your child’s music teacher when considering the purchase of an instrument.

When renting an instrument, you will sign a one-year contract with the rental company. You should arrange to pick up your child’s instrument from the company over the summer. When you pick up the instrument, be sure to open it and examine the instrument with a representative of the company and ensure it is in proper working order. Do not allow the rental company to deliver your rental instrument to school. The school is not authorized to accept deliveries from rental companies and cannot provide secure storage for instruments that are not school property.

Estimated Range of Instrument Rentals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>Flute</td>
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<td>Oboe</td>
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<td>Clarinet</td>
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<tr>
<td>String Bass</td>
<td>$300.00 - $450.00</td>
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<td>Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ardsley Music</td>
<td>914-693-6639</td>
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<tr>
<td>120 Saw Mill River Road, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atelier Popescu</td>
<td>203-661-9500</td>
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<tr>
<td>403 East Putnam Ave, Cos Cob, CT 06807</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chuck’s Musical Instruments</td>
<td>203-775-3735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116 Laurel Hill Road, Brookfield, CT 06804</td>
<td>Contact: Chuck Pomeroy</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Cortlandt School of Performing Arts</td>
<td>914-402-4250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Old Albany Post Rd., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cortarts.com">www.cortarts.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crestwood Music Education Center</td>
<td>914-961-3497</td>
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<tr>
<td>870 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale, NY 10583</td>
<td><a href="http://www.musicarts.com/rentals">www.musicarts.com/rentals</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>D Z Strad</td>
<td>914-831-7415</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 Lexington Ave., White Plains, NY 10606</td>
<td><a href="mailto:business@dzamerica.com">business@dzamerica.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenwich Music</td>
<td>203-637-1119</td>
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<tr>
<td>1200 East Putnam Ave., Riverside, CT 06878</td>
<td><a href="http://www.greenwichmusic.com">www.greenwichmusic.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Music &amp; Arts</td>
<td>914-241-0689</td>
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<tr>
<td>720 N Bedford Rd, Bedford Hills, NY 10507</td>
<td><a href="http://www.musicarts.com/rentals">www.musicarts.com/rentals</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Music &amp; Arts Center</td>
<td>914-381-5205</td>
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<tr>
<td>604 Mamaroneck Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543</td>
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<td>Music &amp; Arts Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Learning Center</td>
<td>203-748-1444</td>
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<tr>
<td>425 Main St, Danbury, CT 06810</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York String Source</td>
<td>917-689-6874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>530 East 23rd Street, Bronx, NY 10470</td>
<td><a href="mailto:contact@newyorkstringsource.com">contact@newyorkstringsource.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Radovich &amp; Dean Music, Inc.</td>
<td>(845) 225-4515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 Glencida Ave., Carmel, NY 10512</td>
<td><a href="http://www.radovichanddean.com">www.radovichanddean.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose Hill Music Academy</td>
<td>914-747-2585</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose Hill Shopping Center, Columbus Ave., Thornwood</td>
<td><a href="mailto:office@roshillmusic.net">office@roshillmusic.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Ash Music</td>
<td>914-949-8448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601</td>
<td>Contact: Josh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Music Instrument Repair</td>
<td>914-793-1780</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Westwood Rd, Yonkers, NY 10701</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Music Source</td>
<td>203-698-0444</td>
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<tr>
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