



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visual and Performing Arts Department

4949 Cypress Avenue, Portable #24
Richmond, CA 94804

Dr. Bruce Harter, Superintendent
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Program Description

Elementary Instrumental Music Program

This year, the West Contra Costa Unified School District is offering an elementary instrumental music program at each of its elementary schools.

This will program will provide instruction in Band instruments in all Elementary Schools and Violin in the Hercules area to support the strings program in the Middle and High School. These programs will operate on a “pull-out” basis. Students who participate will be pulled out of classroom instruction once a week for 30-40 minutes. It is imperative that students attend each band class session along with their instrument and other materials (book, sheet music etc.) In the event that it is necessary to miss a class, a note from the child’s parent should be delivered to the band instructor. Excessive instances of missed class and/or missing instrument and materials may lead to a discussion about dropping the program.

Students that participate will be required to make up any assignments missed in the classroom.

Instructors will be assigned the equivalent of 6 schools per week and will provide both beginning and intermediate instruction on Flute, Clarinet, and Trumpet. In Hercules, there will also be instruction on the violin. There may also be the opportunity for instruction on Trombone or Alto Saxophone should there be a need based on the instructor’s availability and discretion.

The West Contra Costa Unified School District maintains an inventory of elementary instruments and will provide a minimum of 10 trumpets, flutes, and clarinets per school for a total of 30 instruments. **Since there are always many more students than there are available instruments, we encourage students that can provide their own instruments to do so.** You may find rental information from music retailers in the Yellow Pages or online. Especially for 2nd and 3rd year students renting or purchasing an instrument is a key investment in their growth and development

Each instructor will meet with the school principal to arrange logistics, make classroom presentations, and send home permission slips to be completed by parents. Students that have returned permission slips will

be screened to determine the best instrument to pursue based on interest and embouchure. The next step is to issue instruments and begin instruction.

Students will learn to assemble their instruments and to hold them with appropriate finger positions. Students will be instructed in the basics of tone production and music notation. Students will participate in school level performances of various types and District level performances providing students, parents and the community the opportunity to participate in their learning experience as members of the audience.

School level performances will be determined by individual site needs and availability as determined by the Principal and the Music Instructor.

It is our hope that participation in the Band or Orchestra program will lead your child to a lifelong appreciation of musical art and the discipline required to bring it to life.