

# SOUTH EASTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT BEGINNING BAND AND STRINGS 2021 - 2022

**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, which one or two instruments they are most interested in.**

## WHAT INSTRUMENTS CAN I CHOOSE FROM?

SESD offers beginning lessons in the following instruments in fourth grade:

<b>STRINGS</b>	<b>WOODWINDS</b>	<b>BRASS</b>	<b>PERCUSSION</b>
Violin	Flute	Trumpet	Snare Drum
Viola	Clarinet	French Horn	
Cello	Oboe	Trombone	
Bass	Saxophone	Baritone (Euphonium)	

## DOES THIS COST ANYTHING?

Parents, 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](http://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 rent 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?

The SESD Music Department will be launching a website that has been created with the help of the music store we work with, Menchey's Music. This website will serve as a Virtual tool for you and your child to explore the instrument choices and to hear from other students and musicians about their love for Band & Orchestra.

<https://www.mencheymusic.com/recruitment/south-eastern-school-district-instrumental-program/>

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](http://www.mencheymusic.com) or from the fliers that are attached to this letter.
- You will need to purchase a lesson book:
  - Woodwind & Brass Students will need -**
  - Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1 - \$9.99 (In their specific instrument)
  - Any accessories that are needed for their specific instrument

**Snare Drum Students will need -**

Sound Innovations for Concert Band Book 1 for Snare Drum- \$9.99

Rhythm Reading for Drums by Garwood Whaley - \$9.95

**String Students will need -**

Sound Innovations for String Orchestra - \$9.99 (In their specific instrument)

**ALL Band & String Students will need -**

A music stand for home practice - \$14.99

Any accessories that are needed for their specific instrument.

Instruments will be delivered to the child's school before the first lesson and your child will receive the instrument to bring home after they have been instructed on the proper care for the 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 wish 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 MRS. SHEARER OR MS. 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 Ms. Best for String Instruments or Mrs. Shearer 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 Instruments, 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 Bases, Baritones/Euphoniums, or Drum 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.

To help ease transportation for students that may need their instruments more than one cycle day in a row, we encourage parents to give permission for their child to leave their instrument at school in the instrumental room. After your child has completed the required cycle days, instruments can then be picked up so your child may practice. Another option for students with larger instruments may be to "rent" an additional instrument through the school district (on a first come, first serve basis.) The music department feels it is essential that transportation regulations be made available to parents and students before an instrument is chosen.

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

In their first year, our expectation is that your child make 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 six day cycle.

Every Band & Orchestra member in our school district is also provided with a Standard Student **SmartMusic** Account for home practicing. We will send home more information on this later, but if you would like to start looking into what SmartMusic is, now, here is a website to show you: [smartmusic.com](https://www.smartmusic.com)

## **HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD?**

Once the web page goes live next week, we will send the link to the 4th Grade Classroom Teachers to post on their Google Classroom Pages. You will also be able to find a link on each Elementary Building web page [sesdweb.net](https://www.sesdweb.net). Once we have completed recruitment/registration (around the beginning of October,) we will inform your child's Classroom teacher of the start date for lessons. Students will receive their instruments and materials at their first lesson.

## **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 are here to help you.

## **WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?**

On **Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 7:00 PM,**

we will be holding an evening meeting at **Fawn Area Elementary School.**

- SESD Music Staff and Menchey's Music representatives will both be there to present information on how the SESD Instrumental Program works as well as Menchey's Rent-to-Own Program.
- If you are interested in borrowing an instrument from SESD this would be a good time to discuss this with the SESD 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.

Please email the teachers with any further questions.

**STRINGS**

**BAND**

Ms. Amy S. Best  
Director of Orchestras, Grades 4-12  
South Eastern School District  
[besta@sesd.k12.pa.us](mailto:besta@sesd.k12.pa.us)

Mrs. Nicolle Shearer  
Director of Bands, Grades 4-6  
South Eastern School District  
[shearern@sesd.k12.pa.us](mailto:shearern@sesd.k12.pa.us)