

Dover Area School District Elementary Instrumental Music 2026-2027

Who can participate?

The program is open to any student in 4th and 5th grade.

How do we get an instrument?

Instruments can be obtained in any of the following manners:

- 1) Rental or purchase from local music stores.
- 2) Private purchase
- 3) Loan or gift from family or friends

What instrument should my child play?

The best choice is usually the instrument that the student prefers to play. This is a sound that they are fond of and will contribute to their initial success. However, I will also assist your child in selecting the instrument that will make him/her most successful.

How much should they practice?

It is recommended that a student play their instrument for a minimum of 20 minutes each day. More than that amount is ENCOURAGED!

Where/when do we bring instruments for lessons?

The lessons are in the instrumental lesson room/music room for each building. Each student will receive 30 minutes of instruction once per cycle in groups of like instruments. There will be schedules posted outside the lesson room and daily on Schoology. Lessons begin on Day A of Cycle 4, note the schedule below for when I will be in your child's building for their first lesson.

Schedule/Rooms:**Note that lesson days relate to cycle days, NOT the day of the week**

1. North Salem: Days A and B(am) in the Music Room
2. Weigelstown: Days B(pm) and C in Music Practice Room
3. Dover: Days D and E(am) in the Music Practice Room
4. Leib: Days E(pm) and F in the Music Room

What book do I need?

All students will use Essential Elements for Band. The book is available at local music stores or on Amazon.

Where do I keep my instrument?

Instruments should be kept in the music room/storage spaces. Instruments should not be left in the school overnight unless specified by the music teacher.

When do lessons begin?

Lessons will begin on Tuesday September 15th (Day A of Cycle 4). Students do not need their instrument for the first lesson. I will go over the instrumental music rules and procedures so your child can have a successful year. Refer to the schedule above for when your child will need their instrument/have a lesson.

Can I be in sports and Band?

Yes! Our school program is specially designed to allow for participation in sports and band.

Can I change instruments?

It is usually not necessary or desirable to change instruments. When it is viewed as necessary by the instructor, the music stores will work with you to exchange instruments. No changes should be made without prior contact with me.

When can I put my instrument together?

The second lesson will be spent on the correct assembly of the instrument and producing a first sound. It is recommended that each student wait until the first lesson to assemble their instrument for the first time.

Do we get to perform “in concert” this year?

Each elementary school provides an opportunity for students to perform. 4th Grade Band will be showcased in a recital at the Fine Arts/Family Night event in the spring. 5th Grade Band will perform in a Holiday concert as well as a combined concert in the spring.

HELP! I am having problems!

I am always available to answer questions. Being in four buildings, trying to call me is not the best way to contact me. If you ever have any questions, you can email me at the address listed below and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Mrs. Fahs - arfahs@doversd.org