

Hello Everyone!!

My name is Mrs. Fahs and I am the Elementary Band Director!! As your students enter 4th grade they have the opportunity to join our wonderful instrumental program here in Dover. This year, band sign ups are occurring at the end of 3rd grade instead of at the start of 4th grade because I am having a baby and will be out right at the beginning of the year. This will not delay your students' participation in the instrumental program, I just want to get a head start before the year begins!! Please read through all the information below. I know it is a lot, but please go through everything and let me know if you have any questions:

1. **When Will Lessons/Band Start:** Lessons and Band will begin in the cycle following labor day. This cycle begins on **September 15th**. Lessons will pull students from their rooms for 30 minute blocks.
2. **When Will My Child Have Lessons/Band:** I travel between all four elementary buildings in our district. Below you can see the cycle days that I am in each building. I spend a day and a half in each building per cycle. Your students' 30 minute lesson will occur on one of the cycle days that I am in that building. ****Please note that all lessons revolve around cycle days NOT the day of the week****
 - a. **North Salem:** Day A/B(am)
 - b. **Weigelstown:** Day B(pm)/C
 - c. **Dover:** Day D/E(am)
 - d. **Leib:** Day E(pm)/F
3. **What Should My Child Bring To Lessons/Band:** Students will need their instrument and lesson book for lessons each cycle. We partner with Menchey Music and they take care of most of the instruments. They have a wonderful rent-to-own program and closer to the start of the year you will receive a link to a website full of information about both our band program and Menchey's instrument rental and purchasing options. We want as many students participating as possible, so please know Menchey's is not the only way to get an instrument. Come the time to get the instruments, if you are in need of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me!
4. **Lesson Schedules:** Lesson schedules will be posted on Schoology, outside the lesson spaces, and sent to 4th grade teachers. I will send a basic schedule to parents as well stating when each instrument has a lesson. I will send reminders and also pick the students up for their first two lessons to establish the schedule. After the first two lessons, students are responsible for coming down on their own at their lesson time.
5. **What To Look Out For:** There will be a lot of information coming home both at the end of this year and the start of next school year. Here is what to watch for:
 - a. **Beginning Of Next Year:** Watch for a link to the website where you can learn about the band program and Menchey Music services.
 - b. **Getting Instruments:** You will not need to get an instrument for your student until the start of the year when the Menchey Information becomes available. Please know this is not the only way to get an instrument! Please reach out to me if you need any assistance with getting an instrument for your student!

I am super excited to get to work with your students next year! Our instrumental program at Dover is one of the larger programs in the area with many opportunities for students as they progress. I look forward to working with your students and in the meantime if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at the address below!!

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Thank you! ~ Alexis Fahs, Elementary Band Director