EVERY STUDENT MUST RETURN PAGE 3 OF THIS FORM,
EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT PARTICIPATING IN A MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Mill Pond Grade 4
Musical Ensemble Opportunities
2018-2019

Dear Parents,

In the fourth grade at Mill Pond, your child has the opportunity to participate in up to two musical ensembles: chorus and orchestra (strings). Students may sign up for either chorus or orchestra or both ensembles.

- **Chorus** meets one time per week during Academic Activity Period.

- **Orchestra** students meet two times per week during Academic Activity Period, once for an orchestra rehearsal and once for a group sectional lesson.

Please note that all fourth grade musical ensembles are elective. Every effort will be made to accommodate a student's request for an ensemble, however, scheduling conflicts with reading & math support, ELL, speech, and OT/PT could limit a student's ensemble choice(s).

Having said that, many of our fourth graders successfully participate in multiple ensembles. Participation in a choral and/or instrumental ensemble is a wonderful musical, social, and learning experience and the opportunities for students in the Westborough program grow every year!

Please see the reverse for important additional information about the string program and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Musically Yours,

Ms. Ehrenreich, Grade 4 Chorus Director: ehrenreicha@westboroughk12.org
Ms. Gerratt, Grade 4 Orchestra Director: gerrattj@westboroughk12.org

Additional information for Parents of String Players

Instruments

We would like all string players to have an instrument by the week of September 17th. **We strongly recommend renting** from a reputable vendor to ensure a properly functioning instrument that is the correct size for your child and will be repaired or replaced if needed! **We do not recommend buying an instrument (or trying to find a "good deal" online), as these instruments are often sized incorrectly, are difficult to tune, break down, have poor sound quality, and have little or no resale value.** We are not responsible for damages to instruments that are difficult or impossible to tune. *Scholarship instruments are available to families with financial need. Please contact Ms. Gerratt for more information.*

Continuing Violin and Viola Students

During the first lessons we will check each instrument and we will let you know if your current instrument needs maintenance or needs to be exchanged for the next size.

For Students Interested in Switching to Cello

Most students decide to continue on the instrument they played last year, unless their heart set on switching to cello. If this is the case, it is important to consider the extra cost and the responsibility of caring for and carrying a much larger instrument. Instruments can be exchanges at the music store (See "Instrument Rental Information" below.)

Beginning String Students

We offer beginning violin and viola lessons for students who were not part of the string program last year and have never played a string instrument before. We do not offer beginning cello in the fourth grade. Beginning students will have one lesson per week and will join the orchestra in the final concert.

Instrument Rental Information

Students who are beginning this year or are switching to cello this year will need to go directly to the store to get their new instrument and Essential Elements Book 1 (and an "endpin strap" for cello). Parents may rent from our district vendor, David French Music, or another reputable vendor. The David French Music store is located at 53B Otis Street in Westborough and their regular hours are Monday-Thursday 11-6, Friday, 11-5. Please contact the store directly at 508-366-5994 with any questions regarding rental pricing. Take your child with you, so that the staff at the music store can assist in finding the right size.

Schedules

Your child will have Orchestra rehearsals on either Mondays or Tuesdays and a group lesson on a different day. Specific information about your child's schedule will be distributed as soon as it is available.

Return this form to your classroom teacher by Monday, Sept. 17th, even if you are not participating in a music ensemble!

Grade 4 Music Ensembles Enrollment Form 2018-2019

Homeroom Teacher _____

Circle Your Team: Blue Red

Student Name _____

Ensemble Choices: Please mark ONE selection below*

*****Please Note: Every effort will be made to accommodate a student's request for a music ensemble. However, scheduling conflicts with reading & math support, ELL, speech, and OT/PT could limit a student's ensemble choice(s).*

- **Chorus ONLY**
- **Orchestra (Strings) ONLY**
- **Chorus AND Orchestra (Strings)**
- **No Music Ensemble**

String Students instrument choice:

- Continuing Violin
- Continuing Viola
- Switching to Cello
- Beginning Violin or Viola

  (We do not offer beginning cello in the fourth grade)

Parents of string students **must sign** the instrument liability waiver on the **back of this form.**

WESTBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fine Arts Department

Dear Parents:

We are extremely pleased to see that your child has elected to participate in our school instrumental music program. Since most students either lease or own their instruments, you need to be informed that the Westborough Public Schools does not have adequate facilities to guarantee, at any time, secure storage of musical instruments other than for those that are school-owned.

Although we have designated locations where students may leave their instruments on a daily basis, the Westborough Public Schools will not, under any circumstances, assume responsibility for loss, damage, or theft of any musical instrument that is not owned by the school district. We also ask that you assist us by talking to your child about appropriate care for his or her instrument, and by reminding him or her on the days that the instrument needs to be in school, to leave it in the location designated by the teacher.

Please sign below, and return this letter to your child's instrumental music teacher indicating your understanding of this matter.

We hope that your child's school musical experience becomes a source of lifelong learning and enjoyment. Our best wishes for a very successful and productive school year are extended to both you and your child.

Sincerely,
Christopher Martin
Director of Fine Arts

_____
Student's Name

_____ _____
Parent/Guardian Signature *Date*

_____ _____

Teacher Signature *Date*