



*“The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic...music, dance, painting, and theater are all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment.”*

*William Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education*

## **Instrumental Music Information**

**Dear Parents and Caregivers,**

Each year at this time, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students anticipate their turn to join our instrumental music program. The study of music could be one of the most valuable steps in your child’s education. Research shows that playing an instrument increases brain development and — along with developing responsibility, mental discipline, teamwork, expression of emotions, and self-esteem — will provide enjoyment while fostering a lifelong appreciation of music and other arts.

The most promising beginning instrumentalists sing and understand the musical concepts of pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, and timbre. Music teachers hope that your family considers all factors in making the choice to participate in instrumental music for as many as 8 years at Penn Manor. Since finances are sometimes a factor, our school will purchase the method books and provide ensemble music when it is needed. If your family is interested in participating, but limited by the instrument rental cost, then please consider a willingness to play a school-owned instrument. We have several of the larger instruments that are often costly.

I hope you agree with our belief that every child should have the chance to participate in music, to understand it, and to appreciate it. I look forward to seeing you and your child during the 5<sup>th</sup> grade year!

If you have any questions, send an email to me: [jill.almoney@pennmanor.net](mailto:jill.almoney@pennmanor.net)

Ms. Jill Almoney and the Penn Manor Music Department

A music store will have rental information available this summer on the PM Elementary Instrumental Music Blog <https://blogs.penmanor.net/jalmoney/>. We do recommend renting instruments from any local music store before you purchase. This is a strong caution against “no brand” or \$100 new instruments found on the internet. These instruments do not usually last long or do not work well. If a price seems “too good to be true,” please do not purchase that instrument for use in our school music program.

These are the instruments that we offer instruction for:

Woodwinds

Flute

Clarinet (reed)

Saxophone (reed)

Brass

Trumpet

Trombone (slide)

\*Baritone

Strings

Violin

\*Cello

\*Viola

\*Bass

Pitched Percussion

Orchestra Bells

Drums are not taught in the schools. If

interested, seek private instruction and audition for 6<sup>th</sup> grade band.

\* Please speak with the instrumental teacher at the school if this is the instrument of choice.

If your child is interested in studying an instrument, please encourage him/her/them to listen for the instrument and discuss what they like about it when the radio is playing. Additionally, we recommend having a second and third choice instrument in the event that an instrument is not suited to a student’s body. Music teachers will offer instrument selection guidance based upon physical assets, musical experiences, and student preferences. Instrument Registration information will all be online. Please look for a blog post or email about this after August 1.

Have a great summer and we will see you in the fall!