

**Milford Elementary School at Heron Pond
4th & 5th Grade Instrumental Program
September 2019**

PARENT INFORMATION - INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

The ability to play a musical instrument is a skill that can be enjoyed throughout a lifetime. Your child is eligible to begin the instrumental program at this time. If you are interested in having your child participate in band, this letter briefly describes the instrumental program held at Heron Pond. If you and your children are interested please read through the material and return the brief form found on the last page. Your child will then receive the complete parent handbook including the sign up form and lesson scheduling details. This letter is to determine your interest. It is not the actual sign up form.

1. INSTRUMENTAL DEMONSTRATION FOR GRADE 4 & 5 STUDENTS

Your children will be attending an instrumental music demonstration during their weekly music class. Lessons and rehearsals are offered after school for all students in 4th & 5th grades who want to receive free lessons and be a part of the school band. The following information will answer most of the questions parents ask each year. Please read through the following material to learn about this very exciting opportunity.

2. Registering for Instrumental Lessons - Ms. Chaplin, Instrumental Instructor

If you are interested and need more information or already know your child will participate in band, please return the short form at the end of this letter or send an email to:

cjc.musicsound@gmail.com

<http://hp.milfordk12.org/teachers/carol-chaplin/>

This is the email for the Heron Pond Instrumental Program. Please return as soon as possible.

**Tuesday, September 17th – at Heron Pond 4th & 5th Grade Open House
Instrumental Program - Information Night for Parents
7 PM - All 4th & 5th Grade Parents in the Cafe
(2nd year Parents & Band Students do not need to attend.)**

Please make every effort to attend this very important session. If you cannot attend, and your student will be participating in band please call **603 233-6256** if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Lessons will start the week of October 1st, second year students should return the letter of interest as soon as possible.

If students are using their own instruments, books and supplies will be available for purchase through Ms. Chaplin at school.

Personal instruments may need to be repaired. Appointments can be arranged with Mrs. Chaplin to have instruments checked free of charge. Please call the band phone number to make an appointment for a check up before **September 24th**. (603 233-6256).

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. When will the program begin? The first week of scheduled lessons for ALL 4th and 5th grade students will start during the week of October 1st. Violins will start September 27th. Your child should come to his/her first lesson prepared with his/her instrument, book, and a pencil. Each student will be given a notice with his/her day and lesson time. Lesson times will also be posted in your child's classroom and sent in an email from cjc.musicsound@gmail.com. Students who have not received an instrument by their first lesson should still come to class. Late sign ups are accepted but not encouraged, and notices may not go out until September 29th.

2. What type of lesson will my child have? Your child will have a weekly small group lesson scheduled after the school day sometime between 3:15 & 7:30. Students will remain on stage and be supervised by Ms. Chaplin. Lessons will focus on playing skills and performing in small groups. Students will be grouped by like instruments in most situations. Occasionally students are grouped by instrument families (woodwind, brass, percussion, violin).

3. What instruments are available for my child to play? The instruments offered for beginning 4th and 5th grade students are: violin, flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, and mallet percussion/snare drum kit. Returning 5th grade band students desiring to play other instruments should speak with Ms. Chaplin. Students who already take private lessons outside of school on piano or guitar are also welcome to play in the band.

4. What do we do to get an instrument? There are many choices to use in providing an instrument for your son/daughter. There are several music stores in the area as well as stores on the internet. These vendors offer both new and used instruments for sale. Renting is a great option for not investing a large sum of money to start with. Families may also own instruments that students are welcome to use. No matter where the instrument comes from, it needs to be in playable condition for the student to have an enjoyable and musically educational experience. There are instruments available to be loaned out thru Ms. Chaplin for students who otherwise could not afford to participate. Please indicate you would like a loaner on the registration form.

THE CHOICE OF THE RENTAL COMPANY IS YOURS. You may choose from any vendor. If you are getting an instrument from a retailer you can't visit, please be aware of ease of playing and the general condition of the instrument you are purchasing. Also be sure to check the warranties, minimum specs, durability, and repair guidelines. Please feel free to make an appointment with Ms. Chaplin to have instruments other than rentals inspected during after school hours. You may drop it off during school. Any instrument checks need to be arranged before September 24th.

5. Which music book does my child need? Grade 4 & 5 students will be using **“Tradition of Excellence”, Book 1 by Bruce Pearson**. This book may be purchased at local music stores or through Ms. Chaplin at your child’s music lesson. Violin students will be using **“String Basics” by Terry Shade**.

6. What about practicing at home? Practicing is the key to your child's success. A beginner should practice 15 minutes twice a day and work up to 30 consecutive minutes or more every day. A regular practice time and area is suggested and students will be required to keep a record of his/her practice. Many students will need to develop a routine to follow during each practice session.

7. Will my child perform in a concert? All students will participate in a performance(s) during the school year. These dates will be announced at a later time. Students who participate in lessons will be expected to participate in all activities unless prior arrangements are made with Ms. Chaplin. All students will perform music for their instrument as well as small ensemble music. Fifth grade students will have the opportunity to play several times during the year at various school events. Information about dates for performances and rehearsals will be made available at a later time. There will be an All District Band Fest in May.

8. What supplies does my child need: VERY IMPORTANT!

Violin - Rosin Flute - Cleaning Rod & Cloth
Clarinet & Sax - Reeds, size 2 or 2.5, Cork Grease, Cleaning Cloth
Alto or Tenor Sax neck strap (padded)
Trombone/Trumpet - Slide/Valve Oil
Drum Sticks - 5A plastic or wood tip, Practice pad- Gladstone or Remo

Books:

“Tradition of Excellence” Book 1 by Bruce Pearson (Grade 4 & 5)
(Combo Percussion/Piano/Baritone books are available but need to be ordered.)
“String Basics” Book 1 by Terry Shade & Jeremy Woolstenhulme (all violins)
Music Stand (Optional) Instrument Stand (optional)

Heron Pond 4th & 5th Grade Instrumental Program
Letter of Interest - September 2019
Please fill out and return ASAP if you are considering Band this year.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS FOR GRADE 4 & 5 STUDENTS

Your child will attend an instrumental music demonstration during their weekly music class. This year should your child wish to learn a musical instrument and become a member of the school band program, lessons and small groups will be offered at school after the regular school day. There is no cost for the instrument lessons. All returning band students should also register at this time. Please return this completed form as soon as possible. At that time your child will be given the band handbook which includes a registration form and lesson scheduling information.

Thank you.

(Child's Name) (Teacher's Name) (Grade)

(Instrument: New Gr. 4 & 5 – Violin, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion)

Additional Choices - 2nd year – Violin, Piccolo, Oboe, Tenor Sax, French Horn, Baritone, Percussion.

New Guitar or Piano students please meet with Ms. Chaplin _____

(Students need a minimum of 1 -2 years of private lessons.)

Does your child have experience on this instrument? _____
Yes No

_____ I would like to have a personal instrument checked.

_____ My child already takes private music lessons but would like to participate in the after school instrumental program.

(Instrument)

_____ My child would like to borrow an instrument from Ms. Chaplin and I agree to be responsible for this instrument.

*** 2nd year students, please see me right away for a lesson scheduling sheet.

1. _____
2. _____
Parent Name(s) Classroom Teacher
Date

Day Phone Number/Home Phone Email Address

