



# IUSD Block Music Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are my child's options for music instruction?

Music class is 40 minutes twice a week. Your child's options are:

Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beginning Strings</li><li>• Vocal</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beginning Winds</li><li>• Intermediate Strings</li><li>• Vocal</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advanced Winds</li><li>• Advanced Strings</li><li>• Vocal</li></ul>

### 2. Where can I rent an instrument? Should I buy an instrument now? What if I already have an instrument?

You can rent an instrument from the Irvine Public Schools Foundation (IPSF) Instrument Rental program or any music store. **We strongly recommend renting instead of buying** at this point because:

- IPSF proceeds go directly toward paying for our various Music programs.
- Your child may need a different-sized string instrument next year (*Note: Wind instruments are all one size*).
- Buying a cheaper instrument will result in poor performance and possibly irreparable breakage. Please consult with the Strings teacher before buying an instrument.
- Your child may not continue with the instrument.

If you already own an instrument for your child, please make sure s/he brings it to class to be checked out by a Music teacher.

### 3. How much does it cost to rent an instrument? What if we cannot get our child an instrument?

Most instruments can be rented for a monthly fee of \$22 to \$30 per month. Larger instruments (cellos and saxophones) can cost between \$35 and \$45. If you are not able to get your child an instrument, please email your child's music teacher as soon as possible to discuss your options. (*See other side for teachers' email addresses.*)

### 4. What quality of instrument should I expect when renting?

Again, we highly recommend you rent rather than buy an instrument at this stage in your child's musical development. When renting an instrument, check for the following:

- There are no stickers or tape used for finger placement by previous renters.
- There are no major dents or cracks. (Minor scratches are fine.)
- There are no missing or broken parts.

*(continued on reverse)*

## **5. What happens if the instrument breaks during the school year?**

First, have your child take the instrument to the Music teacher, who may be able to repair the instrument quickly at school. If the instrument requires additional repair, you must take it back to the store where you rented it. Do not try to fix it on your own; this may cause more damage. (Instrument insurance is available to cover repair and loss. Also, check your homeowner's or renter's insurance.)

## **6. What are the homework expectations for Music class?**

Every Music class requires consistent home practice or homework, with a weekly adult signature. Depending on your child's grade level and class, students are expected to practice 80 to 120 total minutes per week. Vocal students also have weekly home workbook assignments.

## **7. What other materials are needed for Music class?**

The Music teacher can provide any of these materials if a parent or child requests it:

- Instrumental: one-inch 3-ring binder.  
Vocal: Any binder or folder with pockets, or an accordion file, to hold all papers, their workbook, and their pink songbook.
- 2 sharpened pencils and an eraser.
- Instrumental students need the appropriate accessories and method book (list provided by the Music teacher).

## **8. Can my child switch to a different Music class or a different instrument later in the school year?**

Students are allowed to switch only during the first four weeks of the school year.

## **9. How do I contact my child's Music teacher?**

Email is the best way to contact us:

Strings: [ElizabethRohrs@iusd.org](mailto:ElizabethRohrs@iusd.org) or [KarenSposato@iusd.org](mailto:KarenSposato@iusd.org)

Winds: [KarenSposato@iusd.org](mailto:KarenSposato@iusd.org)

Vocal:

## **10. I don't know anything about music. How can I help my child be successful in Music class?**

You can help by encouraging your child to practice consistently and perform their home concerts for you. Listen to them play/sing as often as you can and offer words of encouragement. Does the piece have a steady rhythm? Does it sound musical to you? You do not need to be able to read music to help with many practice/home concert assignments. Often, you can go through the work with your child just as you would with other subjects. We also offer extra help before school, at recess, or at lunch time on Music days, by appointment.

Please contact us as soon as your child feels s/he may need extra help.

***Thank you for supporting your child's adventures in music!***