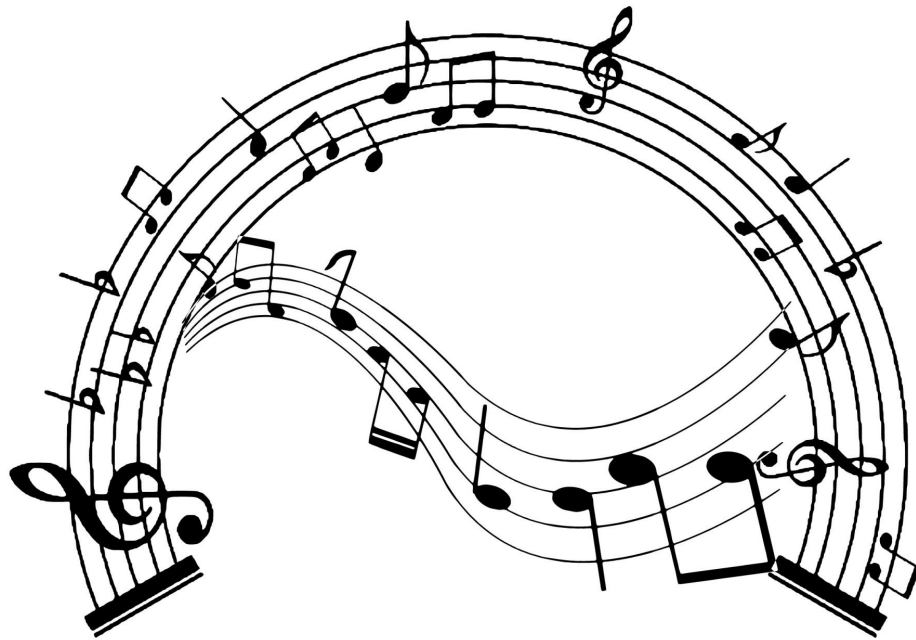




**SCHOOL DISTRICT 54**  
Ensuring Student Success

# Instrumental Music Handbook



524 East Schaumburg Road  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60194

[sd54.org/teaching-and-learning/music/instrumental-music](https://sd54.org/teaching-and-learning/music/instrumental-music)

## Philosophy

Music serves an essential role in civilization, and the study of music is a vital part of a comprehensive education.

- As a universal form of expression that transcends language, background, and geography, music provides a unique perspective on one's own culture as well as the diverse cultures of the world.
- Research has shown that music students score higher in reading, math, and critical thinking skills.
- Participation in instrumental music engages the whole person and, in addition to developing fundamental musical knowledge and skills, also develops skills in listening, discipline, creativity, cooperation, and aesthetics.

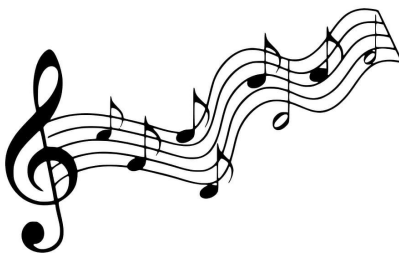
All students in District 54 have the opportunity to participate in instrumental music. Instruction is given by highly qualified educators who follow a comprehensive and sequential curriculum based on state and national standards. As a result of their experiences in the District 54 instrumental music program, students will be able to understand, create, and appreciate music for a lifetime.

## Instrumental Music Staff

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## **Enrollment**

Students enroll in the District 54 Instrumental Music Program in the Spring of fourth grade. Instruments are demonstrated to students at each elementary school and information is distributed with further details about the program. Parents and students are invited to attend an evening meeting, which includes another instrument demonstration as well as information from the instrument vendors that service District 54. Once the **Enrollment Form** is submitted, the student is enrolled in the program and begins instruction in the fall. Students continue their instrumental music study in sixth grade. There is no need to re-enroll.

In junior high, band or orchestra is an elective that students may choose if they have participated in fifth and sixth grade instrumental music in District 54 or a comparable program in another district.

## **Elementary School Instrumental Music (fifth and sixth grade)**

At the elementary level (fifth and sixth grade), the instrumental music program contains two main parts:

1. **Weekly group lessons** at the elementary school.
2. **Weekly after school rehearsals** (mid October-March) on Tuesdays (5<sup>th</sup> grade) or Thursdays (6<sup>th</sup> grade). Students attend after school groups at the junior high they will eventually attend. Parents must provide transportation to and from these rehearsals.

Instrument choices at the elementary level are violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, trumpet, and trombone. In the spring of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, band students are given an opportunity to audition for percussion.

## **Junior High School Instrumental Music (seventh and eighth grade)**

Students who have participated in the elementary program have the opportunity to continue instrumental music in junior high. In junior high, instrumental music students rehearse daily as part of a large ensemble within the school day and participate in a variety of performance opportunities. In addition, weekly lessons are scheduled for each student. Students are pulled from other classes on a rotating basis to attend these small group sessions.

Students in junior high are offered the opportunity to try several instruments not available at the elementary level (i.e. string bass, saxophone, tuba, etc.). Specific procedures for switching to these instruments are determined by each junior high instrumental music teacher, and decisions are made in collaboration with the parent/guardian and student.

**Required materials - Band and Orchestra**

- Suitable instrument (please see list of “Highly Qualified Music Stores”)

Teacher-recommended brands of instruments				
<u>Flute</u>	<u>Clarinet</u>	<u>Trumpet/trombone</u>		<u>Violin/viola/cello</u>
Armstrong	Artley	Bach	Blessing	Cassandra
Artley	Buffet	Bundy	Conn	Franz Hoffman
Bundy	Bundy	Getzen	Jupiter	Knilling
Emerson	Selmer Signet	King	Olds	Lamberti
Gemeinhardt	Vito	Yamaha		Mueller
Jupiter	Yamaha			Schiller
Yamaha				Strobel

- **Music book**

- o Fifth/sixth grade:
  - Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone – *Essential Elements for Band - Book 1*
  - Percussion – *Essential Elements for Band - Book 1 (Percussion)* and *Rhythm Reading for Drums – Book 1* by Garwood Whaley
  - Violin, Viola, Cello – *Essential Elements for Strings - Book 1*
  - Other music as issued by director.
- o Seventh/eighth grade:
  - As determined by each junior high director

- **Folding music stand**

- o Hamilton KB400N (recommended)
- o Music stand carrying bag (recommended)

- **Miscellaneous supplies**

- o *Flutes* – cleaning rod and swab
- o *Clarinet/bass clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone* – at least two working reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease
- o *Brass instruments* – valve/slide oil, slide grease, mouthpiece brush
- o *Percussion* – Percussion kit with bells, sticks and mallets as specified by director
- o *Violins, violas* – rosin, shoulder rest
- o *Cellos, basses* – rosin, rock stop

**All cases and supplies are to be marked with the student's full name and school.**

## **Attendance**

Attendance at all rehearsals, small group lessons, concerts and other scheduled events is expected of all students in the instrumental music program. Any conflicts should be brought to the director's attention well in advance.

## **Practice**

Daily *at-home* practice reinforces the cognitive and motor skills learned in school and builds confidence in the individual musician. Every member of a band or orchestra depends on each other to learn their parts so that the entire ensemble can move forward. While lessons and rehearsals are important and essential, the **most important** factor in determining a student's success on an instrument is establishing and maintaining a regular practice routine.

## **Commitment**

Students in elementary level (fifth/sixth grade) instrumental music are expected to commit to a full year of participation. It is important to realize that playing an instrument is a discipline that is both rewarding and challenging. Persistent practice from the students and gentle but firm encouragement from the parents will usually help students through the challenging times. Parents are welcome to contact the instructor for assistance and suggestions at any point.

## **Assessment/Grading**

A progress report for fifth and sixth grade band/orchestra students is included on the regular classroom report card every trimester. In junior high, band and orchestra are academic classes. Students will receive a grade on the report card.

## **Jazz Ensemble**

The District 54 Jazz Ensemble is a select group of eighth grade students chosen by audition from throughout the district. Students must be currently enrolled in the District 54 instrumental music program to be eligible to audition for the Jazz Ensemble. Auditions take place in the spring of the seventh grade year. Students selected for the Jazz Ensemble begin rehearsals during the summer school program and continue with rehearsals on Thursday nights during the school year (5:00-6:30 pm). Students perform at several venues throughout the district and the wider Chicago area.

## **Early Instrumental Music**

The Early Instrumental Music (EIM) program gives kindergarten and first grade students the opportunity to begin violin lessons. Violin instruction continues throughout sixth grade at Dooley elementary school. Weekly violin lessons are held at Dooley during the school day. Parent attendance at these lessons is **required** through at least third grade. Additionally, children receive a group violin class once a week after school. The students perform in two large concerts per year, as well as a solo recital and at a variety of special school and community events. To participate in the Early Instrumental Music program, students must be enrolled full-time at Dooley. Children enrolled in EIM take all academic classes at Dooley.

## **Summer Music Program**

District 54 students who have completed fifth grade and have participated in at least one year of instrumental music are encouraged to enroll in the optional summer music program, traditionally held for three weeks in July (Monday-Thursday mornings). This program gives students the opportunity to rehearse in a large ensemble, culminating in a final concert. Registration information is distributed in the spring.

## Highly Qualified Music Stores

The music stores listed below:

- Will supply rental instruments with D54 recommended supplies/books
- Have a full-service repair facility on site
- Will supply a loaner instrument during repair
- Offer insurance on rented instruments.

<b><i>Orchestra instruments</i></b> <i>(violin, viola, cello, bass)</i>	<b><i>Band instruments</i></b> <i>(flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone)</i>
<p><b>Cassandra Strings</b> 215 South Main St. Algonquin, IL 60102 847-458-7386 www.cassandrastrings.com</p> <p><b>Music and Arts Center, Inc.</b> 907 West Irving Park Rd. Itasca, IL 60143 630-285-1485 and 1476 E. Golf Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173 847-517-1143 www.musicarts.com</p> <p><b>Quinlan &amp; Fabish</b> 59 W. Seegers Rd. Arlington Heights, IL 60005 847-253-5592 www.qandf.com</p> <p><b>The String Project</b> 510 E. Northwest Highway Palatine, IL 60074 847-934-7500 www.thestringproject.com</p>	<p><b>Music and Arts Center, Inc.</b> 907 West Irving Park Rd. Itasca, IL 60143 630-285-1485 and 1476 E. Golf Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173 847-517-1143 www.musicarts.com</p> <p><b>Quinlan &amp; Fabish</b> 59 W. Seegers Rd. Arlington Heights, IL 60005 847-253-5592 www.qandf.com</p> <p><b>Sweetwater (online only)</b> 888-890-3365 www.sweetwater.com/instrument-rentals</p>
<p>These music stores have been chosen based on quality of instruments and service. Rather than a comprehensive list, it is intended to be a resource for parents and students, if needed.</p> <p>Parents are not obligated to use these stores for instrument rental or purchase; however, if an instrument is rented or purchased from a company not listed above, care should be taken to choose a reputable company that rents/sells and services high quality instruments.</p>	