

# Welcome!

The Grosse Pointe Public Schools is pleased to offer your child the opportunity to begin playing an instrument in the Band & Orchestra Program. The benefits of this program reach far beyond the classroom; research shows that music instruction strengthens academic performance.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- **Winter, 4th grade:** A presentation will take place in each class with enrollment details, and students will have the chance to try out and get “fitted” for instruments and find out which ones they are best suited for.
- **Spring, 4th grade:** Families will have the opportunity to rent or purchase an instrument in preparation for 5th grade; rental contracts will begin in the fall.
- **Fall, 5th grade:** 45 minute classes take place every other day (students are grouped by instrument).

## WHAT INSTRUMENTS ARE OFFERED?

5th grade students begin on the following instruments:

BAND:	ORCHESTRA:
Flute	Violin
Clarinet	Viola
Alto Saxophone	Cello
Trumpet/Cornet	Bass
Trombone	
Baritone	
Percussion	

## HOW DO I DECIDE ON AN INSTRUMENT?

Getting “fitted” for an instrument means finding the one that is the right match for you. Part of the success of any ensemble is having every instrument covered proportionately. Similar to a football team, every person can’t play quarterback, and having a balanced ensemble is crucial to everyone’s success and fun. Come with an open mind and ready to try multiple instruments, and trust the experts when given a recommendation!

## HOW DO I GET AN INSTRUMENT?

A quality, working instrument is the most essential factor for any musician, and there are multiple ways for parents to obtain one:

- **RENTING** is a great way for parents and students to “test the waters” of participating. It allows families to obtain an instrument that, with regular payment, will have repair costs covered and doesn’t require any long-term financial commitment. Ways to rent an instrument include:
- **THROUGH A MUSIC STORE:** for families looking for a more long-term option, renting from a store is an ideal situation. Stores have “rent to own” programs that allow families to build up equity and own the instrument when it is paid off. In many cases, this equity can be used to “step up” to a higher quality instrument that will be more ideal as students get older and become more advanced.

### LOCAL STORE OPTIONS:

**A&G Central Music** (Madison Heights)  
(248) 541-6843 | schoolmusiconline.com

**Eastside Music** (Roseville)  
(586) 774-9870 | eastsidemusicltd.com

**Marshall Music** (Troy)  
(248) 457-0300 | marshallmusic.com

**Shar Music** (Ann Arbor - orchestra only)  
(800) 248-7427 | sharmusic.com

**THROUGH THE DISTRICT:** the Grosse Pointe Schools has a large inventory of all beginning instruments available for rent at a very cost-effective price, with the exception of alto saxophone and percussion, which the district does not rent. ***These are available for the 5th grade only; students are expected to rent through a store beginning in 6th grade.***

A GPPSS instrument rental waiver is available for **any** student who wants to participate in band & orchestra. Cost should not be a deterrent for participation.

- If students and families **already own** an instrument, please consider having one of the local stores listed above service it to ensure it is playable and ready to be used in class.

## KEYS TO SUCCESS

**COMMITMENT:** Playing an instrument is a skill that is developed over a long period of time and students will need to be encouraged, especially as the excitement of a shiny new instrument wears off. The primary key to success in instrumental music is commitment, even when things become difficult!

**PRACTICE:** Establishing a regular home practice routine and reinforcing new skills taught in class are important keys to success in band and orchestra. Beginners benefit most from short sessions spread out through the week, as opposed to fewer, longer sessions; 60 minutes a week is recommended.

**PERFORMANCE:** Performance is an essential part of music education! Fifth grade band and orchestra students perform at the district-wide Band-O-Rama or String Extravaganza in December and at an evening concert in the spring. These dates will be posted on each individual school calendar.

**PRIVATE LESSONS:** While not a requirement, private lessons can greatly enhance your child’s musical experience by providing more advanced techniques for some and remedial help for others. If interested, a list of private teachers in this area is available from the teacher.



## ABOUT THE BAND & ORCHESTRA PROGRAM IN THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The district boasts award-winning band & orchestra programs at all three middle schools (Brownell, Parcels, and Pierce) and both high schools (North and South).

GPPSS Students regularly qualify for the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) All-State Band & Orchestra.

GPPSS bands & orchestras regularly achieve first division superior ratings at MSBOA Band & Orchestra Festival.

North and South High School both have marching band, jazz band, full orchestra, pit orchestra, and chamber orchestra in addition to concert ensembles.

The 7th/8th grade bands & orchestras at Brownell, Parcels, and Pierce take yearly overnight field trips to Chicago, IL or Mackinac Island.

The High School bands & orchestras travel every two years, both domestically and internationally. Recent trips have been to Italy, Austria/Germany, Carnegie Hall (New York City), Disney World in Florida, Disneyland in California, Nashville, Toronto, and Chicago.

The South High School Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2022 Michigan Music Conference, one of eight schools selected statewide.

## GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC FACULTY

**JAMES GROSS**, [grossj@gpschools.org](mailto:grossj@gpschools.org)  
Department Chair (313-432-5400)  
South High School, Director of Orchestras  
7/8 Orchestra (Brownell)  
6-8 Orchestra, 6th Grade Band (Pierce)

**JIM CADOTTE**, [cadottj@gpschools.org](mailto:cadottj@gpschools.org)  
5th Grade Band & Orchestra  
(Brownell, Parcels, & Pierce)  
7/8 Band (Brownell)

**DEAN DOSS**, [dossd@gpschools.org](mailto:dossd@gpschools.org)  
5th Grade Band & Orchestra  
(Brownell, Parcels, & Pierce)

**PAUL MILLER**, [millerp@gpschools.org](mailto:millerp@gpschools.org)  
5th Grade Band & Orchestra  
(Brownell, Parcels, & Pierce)  
6th Grade Band & Orchestra (Brownell)

**CHRISTOPHER TAKIS**, [takisc@gpschools.org](mailto:takisc@gpschools.org)  
South High School, Director of Bands  
7/8 Band (Pierce)

**TOM TORRENTO**, [torrent@gpschools.org](mailto:torrent@gpschools.org)  
North High School, Director of Bands  
6-8 Band (Parcels)

**NOAH ZOGAS**, [zogasn@gpschools.org](mailto:zogasn@gpschools.org)  
North High School, Director of Orchestras  
6-8 Orchestra (Parcels)



5TH GRADE

# Band & Orchestra

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

[www.gppssmusic.org](http://www.gppssmusic.org)