

Rochester Christian School

Instrumental Music Handbook

2019 - 2020



September 4, 2019

Greetings!

Welcome to the instrumental music program at Rochester Christian School! Our names are Ashley Uhlman and Jane Hamway, and together we are the Instrumental Music Teachers here at RCS. Before we get started, we wanted to take a moment and let you know just how excited we are to be able to learn and grow in the Lord with your child through the gift of music this year! We have been passionate about music all of our lives, and together with our faith in Christ we are excited to use our skills and talents as a wonderful way to give thanks and praise the Lord.

As the Instrumental Music Teachers at RCS it is our goal to:

- ∂ Ignite the musical ability God has given each child, laying a foundation for a lifetime of musical enjoyment, participation, and outreach.
- ∂ Encourage students to use and explore the various musical gifts that have been given to them by their Creator.
- ∂ Bring joy and excitement into their lives and the lives of others through the playing of music.

We thank you for allowing your child to explore his or her musical gifts and talents through instrumental music. If you have any questions or concerns about the music program, or would like to discuss your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Blessings,

Mrs. Jane Hamway
Orchestra, PreK-2 General Music
& Worship Team Director

Mrs. Ashley Uhlman
Band, 3-8 General Music Director

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*"Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
Praise him with the harp and lyre,
Praise him with tambourines and dancing,
Praise him with the strings and flute,
Praise him with the crash of cymbals,
Praise him with resounding cymbals!" – Psalm 150:2-5*

RCS Instrumental Ensemble Overview

Ensembles:

o **Band**

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

This intermediate level band class is required for students in grades 4-8 who are studying on a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Fourth graders will be invited to join the concert band when they have reached a certain level of fluency on their instrument. The purpose of this class is to build upon the foundational skills learned as a beginner in private lessons, and to begin developing more advanced musicianship techniques. All students wishing to participate in Band must be taking lessons, either in school or with an approved private instructor, for the duration of their enrollment in the program. Mrs. Uhlman will be teaching this class.

o **Orchestra**

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

This is a beginner to intermediate level orchestra class required for students in grades 4-8 who are beginning or continuing study on a string instrument. Fourth graders will be invited to join the orchestra when they have reached a certain level of fluency on their instrument. The purpose of this class is to build teamwork and develop ensemble playing techniques in the budding string player, to build on the rudimentary skills covered in private lessons, and to begin developing more advanced musicianship techniques. All students wishing to participate in Orchestra must be taking lessons, either in school or with an approved private instructor, for the duration of their enrollment in the program. Mrs. Hamway will be teaching this class.

Lesson Information:

Ensemble lesson requirements:

- All students in band or orchestra are required to be enrolled in private lessons
- Lessons may be taken **during the school day** with Mrs. Uhlman or Mrs. Hamway or with an approved private instructor
- It is recommended that first year students take lessons from us in order to reinforce expected student behaviors during their enrollment in the RCS instrumental music program
- If you chose to have you student take private lessons please fill out the attached private instructor form

Lessons offered:

- Woodwind (Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone)
- Brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba)
- String (violin, viola, cello, bass)
- Piano
- Percussion (not drum set)

Payments:

- Lessons are \$20.00 per each half hour lesson
- Payment will be collected by the Business Office and can be taken directly from your FACTS account.
- You will **not** be giving any payments to Mrs. Hamway, or Mrs. Uhlman directly.
- Please contact Mrs. Van Harken for more information.

Other:

- Lessons will be held on a rotating basis to avoid missing the same class instruction every week
- An **Information Sheet**, **Lesson Contract**, and **Private Instruction Form** can be found at the end of this packet. Please fill out all applicable forms and return them by September 15th. Students may not begin lessons until these forms are complete.

Missed Lesson Policy:

Lesson attendance is vital to your student's success as a musician; however it is inevitable that a lesson will be missed at least once in a trimester. For excused absences we will try to schedule a make up lesson however, due to the number of students currently enrolled in the program, it is impossible to offer unlimited make up lesson opportunities.

Excused absences include:

- Absence from school due to illness (but not due to vacation)
- Illness which makes playing impossible (i.e. broken bones, extreme congestion, etc...)
- Exams, Field Trips, or Class Presentations (*Please notify Mrs. Uhlman or Mrs. Hamway as soon as you are aware of your exam, field trip, or class presentation so the lesson schedule can be altered*)
- Two "legal absences" per trimester are permitted before it effects the band/orchestra grade

Unexcused absences occur when:

- The student forgets his or her instrument (you have one forgiveness per trimester)
- The student forgets his or her music
- The student intentionally misses a lesson (i.e. "I have art class, so I'm not coming.")

If a student misses a lesson for an unexcused reason he/she will **still be charged the lesson fee for that week. One forgiveness per year will be given.*

Practice:

- Students in 4th and 5th grade are expected to practice 20 minutes per day, 5 days per week for a total of 100 minutes weekly.
- Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are expected to practice 30 minutes per day, 5 days per week for a total of 150 minutes weekly.
- Practice minutes are to be recorded in the practice log, which is given to Mrs. Hamway or Mrs. Uhlman at the beginning of each lesson. Practice time makes up a portion of the orchestra or band grade.**

****Please Note:** Students who take lessons outside of RCS will still be required to complete the practice minutes section in their practice log. They will turn them in to Mrs. Hamway or Mrs. Uhlman at the beginning of each ensemble rehearsal for a grade. This is to act as a reference for us as the student progresses through the year.

Grades:

Students who take orchestra or band will be evaluated each trimester in four separate categories: weekly private lessons, classroom (orchestra or band) participation, concert attendance, and other assignments. These grades will be available to view on RenWeb.

Weekly Private Lesson Grade

Each lesson, students will be evaluated in five categories: practice time, preparedness, notes and rhythms, technique, and musicality. Each section is equally weighted. A Rubric will be provided.

Behavior and Participation Grade

Classroom participation consists of attendance and behavior grades. Points will be deducted for disruption, tardiness, and refusal to participate in activities in orchestra, band, or private lesson classes.

Concert Attendance Grade

All students are required to perform all concerts. Students who are unable to attend a concert are required to give their teacher notification in order to be excused from the concert. Students who are absent from school on the day of the concert will be excused from the performance. A concert makeup assignment will be given to any student who does not attend a concert. Unexcused absences will heavily effect the student's grade.

Other Assignments

Students will complete worksheets, attend concerts, write concert evaluations, and complete other written assignments during and/or outside of class as determined by their teacher and according to the requirements of the music curriculum.

RCS Instrumental Music Lesson Contract

Please fill out and return to Mrs. Hamway or Mrs. Uhlman by **Friday, September 13** if you intend to join orchestra or band and take music lessons at RCS.

Student's Name: _____

Instrument: _____ # of years played: _____

Previous Instructor: _____

As a student, I agree to take care of my instrument, practice regularly, attend my lessons, and come to rehearsals and concerts prepared and ready to play.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent Information:

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

As a parent/guardian I will support my child's interest in music. I will help my child with at-home practice and by making sure my child is prepared for each lesson, rehearsal, and concert.

Parent Signature: _____

Private Lesson Form

*Please fill out this form and return it to Mrs. Hamway or Mrs. Uhlman by **Friday, September 13** if your child will be taking lessons **outside** of RCS.*

Student's Name: _____

Instrument: _____ # of years played: _____

As a student, I agree to take care of my instrument, practice regularly, attend my lessons, and come to rehearsals and concerts prepared and ready to play.

Student's Signature: _____

Parent Information:

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

As a parent/guardian I will support my child's interest in music. I will help my child with at-home practice and by making sure my child is prepared for each lesson, rehearsal, and concert.

Parent Signature: _____

Private Instructor:

Instructor's Name: _____

Company Affiliation: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____