

Rochester Christian School

Kindergarten ~ third grade

Instrumental Music Handbook

2019-2020



September 4, 2019

Welcome to the instrumental music program at Rochester Christian School! Our names are Ashley Uhlman and Jane Hamway, and 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 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. Your young musician will be able to join this ensemble in a few years from now! 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. Your young musician will be able to join this ensemble in a few years from now! 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:

Lesson Schedules:

- Students in grades 4-8 who have signed up for lessons will have weekly scheduled lessons during the school day with Mrs. Uhlman or Mrs. Hamway, or with an approved private instructor. These lessons are graded and a crucial component of the middle school music ensemble curriculum. These students are given scheduling priority.
- Mrs. Hamway and Mrs. Uhlman have limited space available for private students, and therefore priority will be given first to students in grades 4-8, and then to students in 3rd grade, 2nd grade, 1st grade, and then Kindergarten.
- Both Mrs. Hamway and Mrs. Uhlman have a waitlist for lessons. The waitlist is reviewed every trimester and you will be notified as soon as we have any openings. Alternatively, we can recommend excellent local music teachers to help accommodate your needs.

Lessons offered:

Instrument	Minimum Age to Begin lessons	Teacher
Cello	Age 7	Mrs. Hamway
Violin	Age 7	Mrs. Hamway
Viola	Age 7	Mrs. Hamway
Piano	Age 5	Mrs. Hamway or Mrs. Uhlman
Clarinet	Age 9	Mrs. Uhlman
Flute	Age 8	Mrs. Uhlman
Percussion	Age 9	Mrs. Uhlman
French Horn	Age 9	Mrs. Uhlman
Saxophone	Age 9	Mrs. Uhlman
Trumpet	Age 9	Mrs. Uhlman

Payments:

- Lessons are \$20.00 per each half hour lesson, payable through FACTS.
- Please see Mrs. Van Harken in the Business Office for any assistance with your FACTS account.
- Missed payments will result in termination of lessons.
- If a student is absent for a lesson without notifying the teacher 24 hours prior to the lesson, there will be a \$20 charge for the missed lesson (sudden illness and family emergencies will be excused).

Other:

- An **Information Sheet** and **Lesson Contract** 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*)

Unexcused absences occur when:

- The student forgets his or her instrument
- The student forgets his or her music
- The student intentionally misses a lesson (i.e. "I have a party, 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.*

Practice:

- Students in PreK-2nd grade are expected to practice 10 minutes per day, 5 days per week for a total of 50 minutes weekly.
- Students in 3rd grade are expected to practice 15 minutes per day, 5 days a week for a total of 75 minutes weekly.

Instrumental Music Information Sheet

*Please fill out and return to Mrs. Hamway or Mrs. Uhlman
by **Friday, September 13** if you would like to be included on the schedule
for music lessons at RCS.*

Grade: _____

Student Information:

Student's Name: _____

Student's Instrument: _____

Parent Information:

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Parent's E-mail: _____

Preference of Lesson Day/Time: Please list three possible options – we will do our very best to accommodate requests, but cannot promise that your lesson will fall on the day or time requested. Factors we consider when assigning lesson times are what classes are being missed, what days your music teacher is in the building, and the pending approval or your homeroom teacher and principal. Please also note below if a before or after school lesson could work for your child.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

*“By signing below I promise that I have read and understand the **Instrumental Music Handbook** and agree to uphold these policies.”*

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

RCS Instrumental Music Lesson Contract

Please fill out and return to Mrs. Hamway or Mrs. Uhlman by **Friday, September 13** if you would like to be included on the schedule for music lessons at RCS.

Student's Name: _____

Instrument: _____

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

Student's Signature: _____

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: _____