



Mountain View
Whisman
School District

5th Grade Instrument Catalog

In partnership with:



The Mountain View Whisman School District (MVWSD), with the financial support of the Mountain View Educational Foundation, is proud to provide a weekly visual and performing arts program for all fifth-grade students. Instruction in both art and music is provided by the Community School of Music and Arts. Starting with the fifth-grade program, students have a choice of art classes, a band instrument, or a string instrument.

Any student who takes band or strings has an option of using his/her own instrument or borrowing an instrument from the Mountain View Whisman School District. Please note that the District has a limited number of each instrument. This brochure contains information describing each instrument as well as any prerequisites for learning to play the instrument. Also included are the total number of instruments available from the District and how they are distributed if there is a limited supply.

Families that borrow instruments from MVWSD agree to accept responsibility for the care and maintenance of the instrument and accessories. All instruments must be returned to the District upon the completion of the course, when the student is no longer required to play the instrument, or upon District request.

Instruments are borrowed from the District on a first-come, first-served basis during August distribution nights. If the student's first choice of instrument is not available, an alternate instrument will be suggested for the student to borrow. Families may also choose to lease or purchase (not recommended for 5th grade music) their own instrument. The following are local music stores that provide lease or purchase options:

West Valley Music

262 Castro Street
Mountain View
650-961-1566
Instruments: Flute, Clarinet,
Alto Saxophone, Trumpet,
Trombone, Violin and Viola

Heaney Violins

150 Grant Road, #13
Mountain View
650-564-9013
Instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello

Sono Strings

171 E. El Camino Real
Mountain View
650-336-8993
Instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello

Students who borrow a District instrument will be supplied with the necessary book and materials (oil and reeds will be handed out by the music teacher). If you rent an instrument, you will still receive a book from the District, but you will need to supply your own materials. The table below lists the books and materials for each instrument.

Instrument	Required Book	Required Supplies
Violin	New Directions for Strings Book 1	Rosin KUN Shoulder Rest
Viola	New Directions for Strings, Book 1	Rosin KUN Shoulder Rest
Cello	New Directions for Strings, Book 1	Rosin Rock Stop
Trumpet	Standard of Excellence, Book 1	Valve oil
Trombone	Standard of Excellence, Book 1	Slide oil
Alto Saxophone	Standard of Excellence, Book 1	Two #2 saxophone reeds Swab Neck strap

Clarinet	Standard of Excellence, Book 1	Two #2 clarinet reeds Swab
Flute	Standard of Excellence, Book 1	Swab

All students should have a music stand (foldable or tabletop are inexpensive) or way to place music at the correct height and angle. You can even use a laptop on a table to hold your music for some instruments. Check with your teacher for ideas if you do not have a stand.

To borrow an instrument means a commitment on the part of the child's family to ensure regular practice of the instrument throughout each week of the school year. It is recommended that students practice 5 days a week, 20 minutes a day. Students who do not demonstrate an ongoing commitment to their instrument will not be able to continue with music classes. You can support your student with music by:

- Helping them remember to take their instrument and music book to school on music day.
- Encouraging them to practice at home. Regular practice is required to learn an instrument.
- Providing encouragement. It can be frustrating at the beginning, but that is normal until they become more comfortable with the instrument.

If your child opts to not play a musical instrument, he/she will be provided a weekly art class instead.

Fifth Grade Art Program

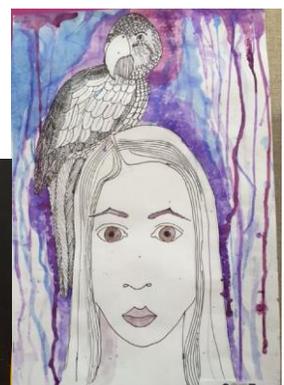
The Community School of Music and Art provides professional visual arts instructors that guide and encourage learning and creative expression through skill-based, sequential lessons in a variety of art methods and techniques. Art classes develop basic technical skills as well as teach concepts such as line, shape, value, form and color. Lessons are often inspired by a master artist or a cultural/historical context that encourages students to explore and view life from other perspectives. Lessons coordinate with classroom studies, becoming an integral part of the students' school day. In addition to developing students' creativity, skills learned through visual arts improve achievement in other subjects, build self-esteem, expand cultural curiosity and enhance critical thinking abilities and creativity. All CSMA art lessons meet the California State Standards for Visual Arts.

The standards include:

- Expressing inner self in self-portrait, creating illusions using value and perspective, and linking imagination with reality through design.
- Building awareness of art as a part of daily life, identifying works from specific periods, and looking at art through a master artist's eyes to build cultural and historical knowledge.
- Using drawing techniques to describe the outside and inside of a form with contour lines, identifying positive and negative shapes, and painting with complimentary colors to create contrast.
- Using line to create form in drawings, using value to create 3-D renderings, and adding complexity to clay modeling and sculpting.



Australian DreamTime Painting



Self Portrait inspired by Hung Lu

Woodwind Family

Clarinet

The clarinet is very popular for beginners and is a very widely used instrument. Clarinets play an important role in bands (such as marching band), symphony orchestras, jazz groups and small instrumental groups. Sound is produced by blowing air and vibrating a single reed, which is the same sound producing method as the saxophone. Because of the similarities, children starting out playing the clarinet could later progress to the saxophone. Once the reeds are damaged or worn out, they require replacement. The clarinet requires some maintenance and cleaning.



The District has 73 clarinets available for students to borrow.

Flute

The flute is the smallest and highest pitched band instrument and is a member of the woodwind family, even though it is made of metal and doesn't use a reed. It is used in many different musical genres and groups, such as marching band, symphony orchestras, jazz groups and small instrumental groups. In order to produce the tone on the flute, the player blows across the tone hole of the mouthpiece, much like blowing across a soda bottle. Since the flute is so small, it is easy to carry.



Your child's arms must be long enough to reach the keys comfortably. Most 5th grade students have enough arm length to reach the keys. The flute requires careful assembly and periodic cleaning.

The District has 81 flutes available for students to borrow.

Alto Saxophone

The alto saxophone is a member of the woodwind family even though it is made almost entirely of metal. The sound is produced by a vibrating single reed which is the same sound producing method as the clarinet. Saxophones are commonly found in bands (such as marching band), wind orchestras, jazz and rock groups.

Many beginning students may not have hands large enough to fit around the saxophone keys. In these cases, starting with the clarinet and switching over to the saxophone at a later date is suggested.



Students will be measured on instrument pick up night to ensure that they can effectively learn to play the alto saxophone.

Since the saxophone is a reed instrument, regular replacement of the reeds is required. The saxophone requires regular maintenance and cleaning.

The District has 39 alto saxophones available for students to borrow. Saxophones are distributed evenly to school sites in order to balance the sound of the band.

Brass Family

Trumpet

The trumpet is one of the most popular instruments for young players and is the smallest and highest pitched member of the brass family. Trumpets are always needed in bands (such as marching bands), symphony orchestras and jazz groups.



As with all brass instruments, the sound is produced by buzzing the lips into a mouthpiece. Pitches are created by pressing valves to change the length of the air flow. The trumpet is a loud instrument, and you must be able to make loud sounds when practicing at home. All beginning trumpet players should start on a Bb instrument.

It is stored in its case in two pieces. Regular maintenance includes oiling the valves and greasing the slides as needed.

The District has 59 trumpets available for students to borrow.

Trombone

The trombone is a member of the brass family that plays the important bass parts of the music. The trombone is played in bands (such as a marching band), symphony orchestras, jazz groups, brass quintets and as solo instruments.



As with all brass instruments, the sound is produced by buzzing the lips into a mouthpiece. A unique feature of the trombone is the slide. While other brass instruments change pitches by pressing valves to change the length of the air flow, the trombone player simply moves the slide in and out. It is also a loud instrument.

It is stored in its case in two pieces. Trombones require slightly more care than the other brass instruments because the slide of the trombone is delicate.

This is a larger instrument which requires arms long enough to fully extend the slide. Not all 5th graders are large enough to play the trombone. Students will be measured on instrument pick up night to ensure that they can effectively learn to play the trombone.

The District has 25 Trombones available for students to borrow.

String Family

A unique feature of student stringed instruments is the variation in sizes. Students have the option of full size, 3/4 size or 1/2 size. The correct size for each student depends on the arm length and overall size of the student. Students must be measured in order to receive an instrument of the correct size.

Violin

The violin is the smallest member of the string family and the highest pitched of the four stringed instruments. The violin is a very popular instrument for beginners. It is well known for its use in symphony orchestras, chamber groups and bluegrass bands.

The violin comes in two pieces, the instrument and the bow, and is held under the chin. Sound is produced by drawing the bow across one of the four strings or by plucking the string with a finger. Fingers are pressed onto the strings, creating different pitches by changing the length of the string.



The violin is a delicate instrument and must be treated with care. Strings are easily snapped if over-tightened. Tuning the instrument must be done by the music teacher or by a knowledgeable adult.

A small amount of maintenance and cleaning of the violin is needed.

The District has 103 violins available for students to borrow in the following sizes:

- 9 ¼ violins
- 26 ½ violins
- 59 ¾ violins
- 19 full size violins

Viola

The viola is slightly larger than the violin and is the second smallest member of the string family. Its pitch is lower than the violin and students read alto clef instead of treble clef music. Violas are seen in symphony orchestras and chamber groups, such as quartets.

The viola comes in two pieces, the instrument and the bow, and is held under the chin. Sound is produced by drawing the bow across one of the four strings or by plucking the



string with a finger. Fingers are pressed onto the strings, creating different pitches by changing the length of the string.

The viola is a delicate instrument and must be treated with care. Strings are easily snapped if overtightened. Tuning the instrument must be done by the music teacher or by a knowledgeable adult.

A small amount of maintenance and cleaning of the viola is needed.

The District has 16 violas available for students to borrow in the following sizes:

- 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ violas
- 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ violas
- 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ violas

Cello

The cello is the third largest member of the string family and has a very wide range from high to low sounds. Beginners play in the lower range of the instrument. Cellos are seen in symphony orchestras, chamber groups and even in pop music.

The cello is played in an upright position. The body of the instrument held between the legs and endpin rests on the floor.

The cello comes in two pieces, the instrument and the bow. Sound is produced in the same way as the violin and viola.

The cello is a delicate instrument and must be treated with care. Strings are easily snapped if overtightened. Tuning the instrument must be done by the music teacher or by a knowledgeable adult.

It is a larger instrument and care is needed when carrying it in a padded case. Bumping the case or setting it down in the wrong way can cause the instrument to break. A small amount of maintenance and cleaning of the cello is needed.

The District has 18 cellos available for students to borrow in the following sizes:

- 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ cellos
- 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ cello
- 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ cellos
- 6 full size cellos



Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to borrow an instrument from the District, or can I use one of my own? You can use your own instrument if it is in good working order.

Can I buy an instrument online? We highly recommend borrowing an instrument from the District or renting an instrument from a trusted source. We do not encourage purchasing instruments for 5th grade music. If you do purchase an instrument it must be in good working condition and must be made of original materials. We will not allow students to use an instrument made of colored material.

Does it cost money to borrow an instrument from the District? The District asks for a donation for borrowing the instrument; however, it is not required and should not deter you from borrowing an instrument.

Do we have to buy the book? No, the District provides books. If you lose a book, you will need to purchase a replacement.

Can I take the instrument home to practice? Yes, you have to take your instrument home to practice, and you must bring it to music class every week. Practice is like eating or brushing your teeth; it's something that you work into your daily schedule.

Can I take the instrument on the bus? Yes, if you ride the bus your instrument can sit on your lap or next to you.

What is the easiest instrument to play? All instruments have their own challenges. Choose the instrument that you like the best. With daily practice, you will be successful!

How much do I need to practice? We ask students to practice 5 days a week, 20 minutes a day.

Is there a concert? Yes, we perform for the 4th graders and a final concert, which is held at CSMA.

Can I switch instruments or switch to art? Not after the first few weeks of school. Once students have been placed in a class, they will remain in that class for the duration of the school year. Remember, with practice and patience, all students will be successful at their instrument of choice. We do understand that issues may arise and in those cases the parent, music teacher, classroom teacher, and principal must all be in agreement about a change. Instrument exchanges are subject to instrument availability.

What if my District instrument needs repair? Inform your music teacher. They will put a repair tag on the instrument. and you will need to take the instrument to Raquel Hernandez-Ramirez at Graham Middle School so it can be repaired.

What if I break or lose supplies that were provided by the District (shoulder rest, rock stop, shoulder strap, book)? Families are responsible for replacing all lost or broken accessories. Please go to one of the music stores listed to purchase a replacement part.