



Music Signup Night

August 23

2023

The upper-grade elementary music program is open to any interested students in **4th, 5th, or 6th grade** in the Mark West Union School District. Please read through this packet before registering your child for a music class.

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10. Supplies for Home and Supply Wish List for Music Classrooms

Please join us at the **Mark West Elementary Gym at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23** for a brief presentation. Students can also explore the instruments up close, ask questions, and we can determine correct sizes for violins and guitars. If you cannot make it, no problem! You can still register your child for music online.

After the presentation, please use this link to register your child for music class:

<https://forms.gle/YH6paa4dM9PTWLrw7>

The link will be activated **after** the presentation has ended.

Please submit the registration form by Friday, August 25. On occasion, some classes may become full, so early registration is highly recommended. You will receive an email from Mrs. Kaufman the week of Aug. 28 letting you know which class your child has been enrolled in and related information.

Music Program
Information
Packet



GENERAL INFORMATION

Class Choices for 4th-6th Grades: This year we are offering music classes in chorus, clarinet, guitar, trumpet, and violin. Please see the next page for more details on each class.

This is a Pull-Out Program: 4th-6th grade music students will miss part of their regular class time to participate in music, unless their requested class occurs before school (see schedule, p. 4). Students are responsible for finding out what they missed and for completing missed work on their own time.

Interest in an Instrument and Chorus? Students who are interested in participating in **two** music classes must get permission from their parents AND their classroom teacher. Some teachers allow this but others do not, as it can be difficult to stay caught up in the classroom. If two music classes are allowed, they must be chorus and *one* instrumental class.

Start Dates: San Miguel classes begin Tues., Sept. 5; Mark West classes begin Fri., Sept. 8; and Riebli classes begin on Mon., Sept. 11. Classes continue weekly until May.

Date Adjustments: Each school will receive 30 sessions for the year. Due to the abundance of non-instructional days on Mondays and Fridays this year, one Tuesday will switch to Mark West's Friday schedule and three Tuesdays will switch to Riebli's Monday schedule. **Mark West students will have music on Tuesday, December 19. Riebli students will have music on Tues., January 16; Tues., February 20; and Tues., April 2.** San Miguel will not have music on these days. I will send out reminders prior to these dates. These adjustments may change if there are other missed school days for any reason.

Requested Donation: We ask for a \$100 donation for the school year (less than \$4 per lesson! - What a deal!), \$150 for 2 siblings, or \$200 for 3 siblings - However, any amount that you can afford will be gratefully welcomed. This donation request should not exclude any students from participating. Mark West Education Foundation Tax ID# 56-2331535

Materials: Music students must bring **instruments** (if applicable) and **music** to every rehearsal and take their materials home with them to practice. Students will be given an envelope or folder to hold their sheet music and book (if assigned). Students may drop off instruments in the music room on the mornings of their rehearsal days. They must take them home the same day to practice.

Instruments: The Mark West District, in partnership with LBC's Music for Schools, offers a limited number of instruments to borrow free-of-charge. Due to the limited number, these instruments are reserved for students who demonstrate financial need and could not otherwise afford to participate. If you qualify, please indicate this info on your registration form. Otherwise, when you receive your child's music class notification, you may proceed to find an instrument to rent or to purchase (p. 7).

Contacting Mrs. Kaufman: I am at Riebli on Mondays, San Miguel on Tuesdays, and Mark West on Fridays. Wednesdays and Thursdays vary based on trimester. The best way to contact me is email at kkaufman@mwusd.org

Thank you! I look forward to a wonderful year of music with you all! – Kara Kaufman



MUSIC CLASS DETAILS

Chorus: Do you like to sing? If so, chorus is the class for you! All levels of experience are welcome in chorus! We will learn fun warm-up exercises and games, solfege syllables, songs sung in unison, songs in rounds, as well as other harmony parts! We frequently learn songs to perform with the other music classes, like the guitars or violins. Come sing with us!

Listen to a chorus: <https://video.link/w/fqDyd>

Clarinet - Beginning or Continuing: The clarinet is a mellow woodwind instrument that can play both high and low. If you enjoyed playing the recorder, the clarinet is played in a similar way (but with many differences too). The beginning and continuing clarinet classes have separate class times but both are combined with the beginning and continuing trumpet classes. Please only sign up your child for the continuing option if your child has had at least one year of instruction on the clarinet and feels confident about having learned the skills taught that year.

Listen to a clarinet: <https://video.link/w/AdDyd>

Guitar - Beginning or Continuing: The guitar is a versatile stringed instrument that is used to play many different types of music, and we will learn to play both melodies and chords in class. Students should use a classical or acoustic guitar for this class; electric guitars are too loud with an amp and too quiet without one. The beginning and continuing guitar classes have separate class times. Please only sign up your child for the continuing option if your child has had at least one year of instruction on the guitar and feels confident about having learned the skills taught that year.

Listen to a guitar: <https://video.link/w/AfDyd>

Violin - Beginning or Continuing: The violin is the highest sounding instrument from the string family, and is the most numerous instrument in a symphony orchestra (as many as 30!) The violin can play many different types of music, including classical, bluegrass, mariachi, pop, rock, etc.! The beginning and continuing violin classes have separate class times. Please only sign up your child for the continuing option if your child has had at least one year of instruction on the violin and feels confident about having learned the skills taught that year.

Listen to a violin: <https://video.link/w/HdDyd>

Trumpet - Beginning or Continuing: The trumpet is the highest sounding instrument from the brass family, and students must “buzz” their lips together in order to produce a sound. The beginning and continuing trumpet classes have separate class times but are combined with the beginning and continuing clarinet classes. Please only sign up your child for the continuing option if your child has had at least one year of instruction on the trumpet and feels confident about having learned the skills taught that year.

Listen to a trumpet: <https://video.link/w/5dDyd>

*All videos are intended as examples only. We are not affiliated with any programs mentioned.



SCHEDULE OF MUSIC CLASSES

Monday Riebli	Tuesday San Miguel	Wednesday & Thursday RB/SM/MW	Friday Mark West
Before school: 8:00-8:30 Cont. Violin	Before school: 8:00-8:30 Cont. Violin		Before school: 8:00-8:30 Cont. Violin
8:35-9:15 Beg. Violin	8:35-9:15 Beg. Violin	8:30-11:05 Planning/Prep	8:35-9:15 Beg. Violin
9:15-9:50 Beg. Clarinet/Trumpet	9:20-9:55 Beg. Clarinet/Trumpet		9:20-9:55 Beg. Clarinet/Trumpet
9:50-10:20 Cont. Clarinet/Trumpet	10:00-10:30 Cont. Clarinet/Trumpet		10:00-10:30 Cont. Clarinet/Trumpet
10:20-10:35 Recess	10:35-10:50 Recess	11:05-11:35 TK-2 Music	10:35-10:50 Recess
10:35-11:10 Beg. Guitars	10:50-11:25 Beg. Guitar	11:45-12:30 Lunch	10:50-11:25 Beg. Guitar
11:15-11:45 Cont. Guitars	11:30-12:00 Cont. Guitar	12:30-1:00 TK-2 Music	11:30-12:00 Cont. Guitar
11:45-12:15 Chorus	12:00-12:15 Travel to Mark West	1:00-1:30 TK-2 Music	12:00-12:45 Lunch
1:00-1:30 3rd Recorders	12:15-1:00 Lunch	1:00-1:30 TK-2 Music	12:45-1:08 Set Up
1:45-2:15 3rd Recorders	1:08-2:08 Charter Music Elective	1:45-2:15 TK-2 Music	1:08-2:08 Charter Music Elective
2:15-2:42 3rd Recorders	2:10-2:25 Travel to San Miguel	2:15-2:45 TK-2 Music	2:15-2:45 Chorus
	2:25-2:52 Chorus		
Possible after-school music classes - details coming soon!			
Signing up for after school music classes will be separate.			

*Days and times of 3rd-grade recorder classes and K-2 music classes vary by school.

START DATES:

San Miguel 4th-6th music classes meet on **Tuesdays** starting **Tuesday, Sept. 5.**

Mark West 4th-6th music classes meet on **Fridays** starting **Friday, Sept. 8.**

Riebli 4th-6th music classes meet on **Mondays** starting **Monday, Sept. 11.**



CALENDAR OF MUSIC PROGRAM EVENTS

2023-24

Date & Place	Event	Who Should Attend
Wednesday, August 23, 2023 6 PM @ Mark West Gym	Music Program Orientation and Student Sign Up	All Interested Families of 4th-6th Grade Students
December TBD, 2023 6 PM @ Mark West Gym	Tree Lighting Ceremony	All Chorus and Cont. Violin Perform
Thursday, February 22, 2024 9 AM @ Mark West Gym	District Assembly for Lower Grade	Cont. Violin, Cont. Guitar, Cont. Band, & All Chorus Perform
Thursday, February 22, 2024 5:45 - 6:15 PM Guitar and Band 6:45 - 7:15 PM Violin and Chorus @ Mark West Gym	District Winter Concert	All 4th-6th Music Students in District Perform
Saturday, April TBD, 2024 TBD @ Luther Burbank Center	Music for Schools Music Appreciation Day	Cont. Violin, Cont. Guitar, Cont. Band, & All Chorus Perform
Monday, May 20, 2024 10:45 AM @ Riebli	Riebli Music Assembly	All Riebli 4-6th Music Students Perform
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 11 AM @ San Miguel	San Miguel Music Assembly	All San Miguel 4-6th Music Students Perform
Friday, May 24, 2024 11 AM @ Mark West	Mark West Music Assembly	All Mark West 4-6th Music Students Perform

*Please note that dates and times may be subject to change, and events may be canceled or added.



THE MARK WEST EDUCATION FOUNDATION

What is the Mark West Education Foundation?

The Mark West Education Foundation is a separate, nonprofit organization. The mission of the MWEF is to enrich educational programs throughout the Mark West Union School District. The Foundation's goal is to build sustainable, ongoing resources for the district by developing partnerships with our diverse community in order to ensure quality educational opportunities for our students and staff.

By partnering with our local businesses and community, the MWEF provides funding through educational grants which directly benefit the Mark West School District's students, staff, and programs.

What programs does the Mark West Education Foundation currently provide?

Recorder classes for all 3rd graders, 4th-6th instrumental/choral music classes, Mark West Charter School music elective class, and the primary music program for all TK-2nd graders.

How are funds raised?

Funds are raised by pledge drives and events benefiting our students, staff and programs, as well as a small voluntary donation requested of the music program parents.

How can you help?

Volunteer to help plan our events, help on the day of events, create flyers, distribute flyers, contact local businesses for donations or sponsorships, become a board member, attend meetings, help out on the night/day of the music concerts, just to name a few. If you can volunteer for just a few hours a month, you can help so much.

When are meetings held?

We currently meet the 1st Monday of every month (1st Tuesday in case of holiday) at 6:00 pm at the District Office Learning Center. For more information or to join a meeting, email us at mwef@mwusd.org

Visit our webpage: <https://mwusd.org/parent-resources/mark-west-education-foundation/>

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarkWestEducationFoundation>

Do you shop at Amazon?

Go to smile.amazon.com, and search for Mark West District Educational Foundation. They will donate to our cause with each purchase using AmazonSmile! A link to AmazonSmile is also on our district webpage.



INSTRUMENT RENTAL, PURCHASE, AND REPAIR

Violin

Loveland Violin Shop

618 4th Street, Suite 207, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

707-526-9777

Open Mon-Fri 10-5 & Sat by appointment only

\$22-30 per month for violin rental

\$35-\$45 per month for cello rental

*You must bring your child with you to be sized for a violin. If renting a violin, purchase a shoulder rest when you go to rent the violin. Please call ahead to make an appointment, if possible.

Clarinet & Trumpet

Santa Rosa Music Center

860 Piner Road, Suite 28, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

707-566-0477

Open Mon-Sat 9-6; Sunday 11-4

\$33.50 per month for most instruments

Stanroy Music Center

850 4th Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

707-545-4827

Mon-Thurs 10-7; Fri-Sat 10-6

\$20-\$40 per month depending on instrument

*Both of these local music stores also **sell** guitars, strings, and other instrument accessories. They can help make sure your child's instrument has everything they need if you rent.

Purchasing an Instrument

I do not recommend purchasing a violin or band instrument unless your child has played for several years and is certain that he/she would like to continue. These instruments are generally expensive to purchase, and an inexpensive instrument often indicates poor quality. Always purchase these types of instruments from a reputable music store. Many music stores will apply a portion of your rental payments toward the purchase of an instrument or offer discounts to school music students.

Decent quality acoustic **GUITARS** can be purchased for about \$75-120. Many music stores will not rent guitars--only sell them. Most students do well with a 1/2 or 3/4 size guitar with nylon strings. Nylon is easier on the fingers. Please avoid toy instruments (e.g. First Act Brand Guitars).

Repairing an Instrument

Please **DO NOT** attempt to repair instruments yourself, especially if they are borrowed or rented. All of the abovementioned music stores have reputable repair shops. Consult Ms. Kaufman first if it's borrowed from the school.

*Please note that the above information (including pricing) is approximate. Please contact the stores directly to get current prices and information.

Guitar Sizing Guide

Average Age	Height of Player	Size of Guitar
2-5 years old	3'3" to 3'9"	1/4-Size
5-8 years old	3'10" to 4'5"	1/2-Size
8-12 years old	4'6" to 4'11"	3/4-Size
12-Adult	5' or taller	4/4-Size

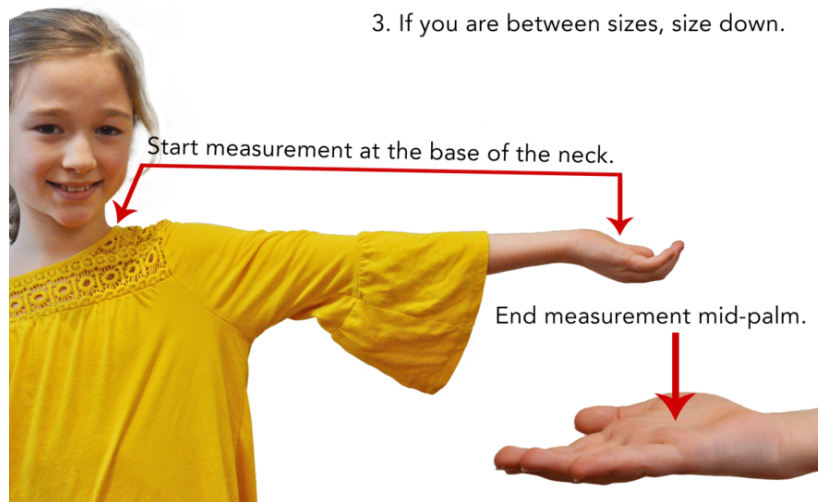
Note: This chart is a guide and does not take into account factors such as arm length, hand span, and finger length. *From <http://www.shepherdguitar.com/the-guitar/>

↓↓↓Measure the LEFT arm for violin↓↓↓

SIZING YOUR VIOLIN

For the most accurate size:

1. Extend the arm fully and perpendicular to the body.
2. Measure from the base of the neck to the middle of the palm.
3. If you are between sizes, size down.



Size Chart:

Size	1/6	1/10	1/8	1/4	1/2	3/4	4/4
Age	3-5	3-5	3-5	4-7	6-10	9-11	12+
Arm Length (Inches)	14 -15	15 -16	16 -18	18 -20	20 - 22	22 - 23	23+

From <https://kennedyviolins.com/pages/violin-size-chart>



STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Attendance: Music classes meet only once a week for rehearsals, so it is crucial that all students attend class on time every week. If a student must miss class for a valid reason (e.g. doctor's appt., illness, etc.), the student must have a parent/guardian excuse the absence (via note or email). **If a student has more than two unexcused absences in a trimester, that student will be dropped from the class and must return any borrowed equipment and materials.** However, if within the first three months of the program, a student feels that they greatly dislike participating in music, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can find a suitable solution (kkaufman@mwusd.org).

2. Behavior: Students must maintain appropriate behavior during music classes to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all. Three basic rules apply during music class: 1) Listen attentively, 2) Follow directions, and 3) Try your best. Consequences for inappropriate behavior will begin with a verbal warning. If the behavior continues, the student will be given a chance to "refocus" outside the classroom. If the inappropriate behavior continues after these two steps, the student may be referred to the office or sent back to class. A notice will also be sent to the student's parent/guardian and teacher. Missing class due to persistent inappropriate behavior will count as an unexcused absence.

3. Remembering Instruments: Students in instrumental classes **must bring their instruments** to class on their music days. Not having an instrument greatly increases off-task behavior for students, and they are unable to learn their instrument as effectively that day. The school does not have enough instruments to keep a supply at school for students who forget, so it is imperative that they remember each week. **If a student forgets an instrument more than two times in a trimester, that student will be dropped from the class and must return any borrowed equipment and materials.**

4. Practice: Music students should practice at least 5 days a week, but every day is preferred! Think about it...are you going to improve much in math if you only do math once a week? Play or sing a little every day and you will see progress! *If it is safe to do so, leave your instrument out and ready to go at home so that practicing can be as easy as possible! If you do this, make sure your instrument is out of reach of pets or young siblings. Otherwise, keeping it in its case is the safest way to store your instrument.*

HOW TO PRACTICE

Students:

- 1) Break up your practice time—do 5 minutes here, 4 minutes there, 2 minutes later. Practicing frequently throughout the week for shorter lengths of time is more effective than only practicing once for a long time.
- 2) Focus less on how long you spend practicing and more on what you want to accomplish (e.g. "I want to play the first line of this song smoothly" or "I want to memorize the first half of the lyrics to this song.") Set a goal and try to achieve it.
- 3) Play or sing for other people or for your pets/toys. Play or sing outside! Make practicing fun but focused!

Parents:

- 1) Please help your child remember to bring their instrument and music on their music day.
- 2) Ask your child to play for you! Show interest in their progress! Ask them to teach you something!
- 3) Help your child find a time and space that will work for their practice. Invest in an inexpensive wire music stand to make practicing more comfortable.



USEFUL GENERAL MUSIC SUPPLIES FOR HOME

The following supplies are not required but may make learning an instrument more comfortable when practicing at home.

- [Wire music stand](#) for anyone practicing an instrument at home - we have music stands available for all students during class time
- [Tuner](#) or Tuner App for smartphone - Ms. Kaufman will tune all stringed instruments each week in class. Students should not attempt to tune their guitar or violin unless they have learned how, so a tuner may not be needed initially.

SUPPLY WISH LIST FOR MUSIC CLASSROOMS

If any parents have the ability and desire to contribute to the music classroom, we are generally in need of the following consumable items. Please note that it is NOT required to purchase anything on this list. It is simply a wish list if anyone feels so inclined to contribute an item or two.

- Kleenex
- #2 Pencils - any brand
- Guitar Strings (light gauge)
- Violin Strings (D'Addario Prelude Sizes: $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, or Full size)
- [RDM Mini Rosin](#) for violins
- B-flat Clarinet Reeds ([Rico #2](#))
- Trumpet Valve Oil ([Al Cass](#))

*All links to Amazon.com are included as examples only, but if you do purchase from Amazon, be sure to go through smile.amazon.com, and search for **Mark West District Educational Foundation!** Most of these items may also be found at local music stores (p. 7).