

Tentative Guidelines for the Fall 2020 semester

All information is subject to change according to Virginia Department of Education, CDC guidelines, and the APS Arts Ed Department

FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions about the Instrumental Music Program

- **Will There be Elementary Instrumental Music in the Fall of 2020?**
 - Yes!!
 - We will continue to meet at least once a week.

- **What instruments are available for my student to play?**
 - Instruments available for band (4th & 5th) are Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone and Euphonium.
 - If we are able to schedule an online Bucket Drumming class, we will do so! Students must also play a band or string instrument.
 - Instruments available for strings (4th & 5th) are Violin, Viola and Cello. String Bass is available to those students who played it last year.
 - 4th grade and 5th grade beginners will start the school year with virtual recruitment and instrument information sessions. They will begin on their instruments a little later than the 5th graders, since the teacher will have limited time in the building to prepare instruments for rental.

- **Should we rent or purchase an instrument for Fall 2020?**
 - We recommend that first year players wait to rent or purchase until more information on school schedules is released.
 - Second year players may continue on their instrument from fourth grade.
 - [Foxes Music](#), [Music and Arts](#), [Brobst Violin Shop](#) and [Potter Violins](#) are all open this summer.
 - Foxes Music is offering curbside pickup, and online rental
 - Music and Arts is offering a delivery service for instruments
 - Brobst violin shop is open by appointment
 - Potter violins will ship the rental instrument directly to your home
 - Rentals can also be done through your teacher at your school. APS provides rentals first to students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Fall distribution process is still being finalized.

- **How are lessons scheduled?**
 - Lessons will be scheduled based on guidelines from the APS Central Office. At this point, synchronous lessons are scheduled on Mondays, after school on Tuesday - Friday, and other available times during the school day. Asynchronous lessons will always be available on Canvas.

- **Should my student practice?**
 - Yes!! Please play your instrument a few minutes everyday!

- **Are there any performances?**
 - We hope so!! We will follow guidelines from the APS Central Office.
- **How can parents help their children practice?**
 - It is very important to establish a consistent practice routine from the beginning. Perhaps have your daily practice before or after dinner.
 - Listen to your student practice and ask them to teach you what they are learning.

How to Practice

- Each session should last between 5-25 minutes
 - Practicing more frequently for fewer minutes is more beneficial than long infrequent sessions
 - Try to plan out a consistent practice schedule that is part of your weekly routine
- Start your session by reviewing material you already know
- Next, work on one or two specific things you hope to improve on
 - Make **NO MISTAKES** - slow down so you can be completely accurate. Otherwise, you're practicing how to play something wrong!
 - Follow these five steps:



1. Count and clap all rhythms
 2. Speak all the note names (not the solfege names!)
 3. Review the fingerings of each note while speaking the note names in the correct rhythm
 4. Play through **VERY SLOWLY** and make **NO MISTAKES**.
 5. Gradually increase your playing speed as you become more comfortable
- Finish your session by previewing new material or playing through something fun
 - Remember - **we don't practice so we can get something right, we practice so we can never get it wrong!**
 - Make sure to clean your instrument when you are done!