



Welcome to Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music!

The ALF Instrumental Music program is one of the most rewarding and exciting educational opportunities offered in school! ALF is proud to continue its support and administration of this program. Your student will benefit from being a part of a music class by learning teamwork, dedication, self-discipline, responsibility, and above all, skills that will enhance his/her life! In the following pages you will find all the information you will need to help your child be successful and get the most out of being a part of the Instrumental Music program. If you still have questions about the overall program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deena Keys, Instrumental Music Chairman 2019-2020

Kathy Kumagai, Instrumental Music Assistant Chairman 2019-2020

instrumentalmusic@alflintridge.org

818-790-2211 Message at Programs Office, Anytime

Topics

1. Introduction of Teachers & Contact Information
2. Schedules & Calendar
3. Is the ALF Instrumental Music Program Right for your Student?
4. Instruments
5. Class Information
6. Attendance & Commitment
7. Practice Expectations, Private Lessons
8. Behavior Standards

For future reference, be sure to download or bookmark this Student Handbook as well as the <https://alflintridge.org/programs/instrumental-music/> home page.

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2019-2020

Music Staff

Michael Davis - Beginning Brass Concert Band Instructor

Freelance trumpet player, Michael Davis, is a La Cañada native who began his trumpet career with ALF as a 4th grader at Palm Crest Elementary. This is his 12th year with ALF as the Instructor for both Beginning Brass and Concert Band. After graduating from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in Trumpet Performance, Mike earned a Masters of Music from the USC Thornton School of Music. He has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Santa Barbara Symphony, Santa Barbara Opera, and with many Ensembles. He has also recorded with indie rock artists and can be heard on the Hollywood Epic Brass album. Mike is an Adjunct Trumpet Instructor at California State University at Dominguez Hills, and has been an instructor with the Oberlin Summer Trumpet Workshop and the YOMP program of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He is the trumpet coach for the Crescenta Valley Jazz Band and is the Music Specialist at La Cañada Elementary.

davism_music@alflintridge.org *

Ruth Kasckow - Beginning Woodwinds Instructor, Concert Band Assistant Instructor & Music Coordinator

Ruth Kasckow is the Woodwinds Instructor and also serves as the Music Coordinator for ALF Instrumental Music, providing administrative support for the program. This year, Ruth will also join us as the Concert Band Assistant Instructor. Ruth received her BA in Music from Goucher College and MFA in Flute Performance from California Institute of the Arts. A flutist, Ruth is a frequent performer in orchestras, chamber music ensembles, and solo recitals throughout Southern California. She performs chamber music and solo recitals frequently at the Noon Series at Pasadena Presbyterian Church and Glendale Noon Series, and has played in Burbank Symphony, Santa Monica Symphony, Opera a la Carte, Orquesta mexicana de la juventud in Mexico City. Ruth was on the Pasadena Conservatory of Music faculty for many years, and now maintains her own private teaching studio in La Cañada and is on the faculty of La Cañada School of Music. She recently received the 2019 “*Finest Music Teacher Award*” by the readers of Crescenta Valley Weekly. One of Ruth’s passions is helping other musicians improve their playing and avoid injury with healthy movement. As a licensed Andover Educator she teaches the innovative educational technique called Body Mapping for Musicians. Ruth has published *The Flute Duet Practice Books* and *Chinese Folk Song Suite for Flute Quartet*, and has recorded two solo CDs with pianist Christopher Brennan: *French Impressions for Flute* and *German Expressions for Flute*. <https://www.flutemuse.com/>

kasckowr_music@alflintridge.org *

Sean Moriarty - Beginning Percussion Instructor

After graduating from La Cañada High School in 2012, Sean Moriarty became a part of the percussion staff with the LCHS Band for the 2012-2013 school year. Later he attended Glendale Community College with a major in Music. Currently, he plays drums for the local band Ryder Buck & The Breakers, and formerly with the Hollywood based Hard Rock/Pop trio Varna which has received acclaim from the LA Music Awards and the North American Independent Rock Music Awards. He also teaches privately, does recording sessions, and works as the Strategic Entertainment Manager for MAC Creative Management. Sean joins the ALF Instrumental Music program for his fourth year as the Beginning Percussion Instructor.

moriartys_music@alflintridge.org *

Sahak Karapetyan - Beginning Strings & String Orchestra Instructor

Sahak Karapetyan graduated with a Masters in Music Performance from Komitas State Conservatory. He has served as Concertmaster of several symphonic and chamber orchestras. Sahak is a founder and Music Director of the St. Gregory chamber orchestra as well as the Bravo String Quartet. He is a member of the Santa Barbara, Redlands, and San Bernardino symphony orchestras, and has taught violin, viola, and piano privately for over thirty years. Among his students are distinguished musicians who have won grand prizes in music competitions and many who have subsequently devoted their lives to professional playing. Sahak joins ALF for his fourth year as the Instructor for Beginning Strings and String Orchestra.

karapetyans_music@alflinridge.org *

Ripsi Yepremyan - Beginning Strings & String Orchestra Assistant Instructor

Ripsi Yepremyan earned her Master's degree in music performance and has been teaching violin and piano privately for numerous years. She is also a performing violinist with local professional orchestras. Ripsi's devotion to her work is genuine and her approach to musical study promotes confidence and enthusiasm. Students are empowered to deal with the challenges of mastering an instrument and inspired to persevere through the difficult stages of practice that ultimately bring success. Ripsi is beginning her fourth year as the Assistant Instructor for Beginning Strings and String Orchestra.

yepremyanr_music@alflinridge.org *

Colin Ring - Beginning Percussion Assistant Instructor

A graduate of La Cañada High School, Colin Ring has continued his studies at PCC and USC. His professional percussion training includes programs at the Jamie Font School of Music, Colburn School of Music, and the Berklee School of Music in Boston. Colin is a drummer for various hard-rock and metal bands. He organized and produced a benefit concert, "Rock for Peru," which raised money for a medical mission to Peru. He has been giving private drum lessons for the last 11 years. Colin first worked with ALF in 2008-2009 as an assistant in the Brass and Percussion class. This is his fourth year as Assistant Instructor for the Beginning Percussion class.

ringc_music@alflinridge.org *

Phillip Yao - Beginning Brass Assistant Instructor

With over 1,500 credits in Film, Television and recording, USC graduate Phillip Yao has worked with many of the world's top composers and musicians including John Williams, James Horner and Jerry Goldsmith. Mr. Yao can also be heard on recordings showcasing a variety of artists from all genres, Hilary Hahn, Barbra Streisand, Aerosmith, Josh Groban and Ray Charles, to name a few. In addition, he has years of orchestral, opera, ballet and Broadway show experience having played with the Pasadena Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, Phantom of the Opera and Wicked. Phillip returns for a second year with ALF Instrumental Music as the Beginning Brass Assistant Instructor.

yaop_music@alflinridge.org *

Shahid Osuna - Beginning Woodwinds Assistant Instructor

Shahid Yasser Osuna is an LA-based flutist, arranger, and teacher. He received a certificate in Music Performance at the Coil School of Music in Riverside, CA in 2017, where he was the two-time winner of the President's Honor Recital and played principal in the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble from 2015-2017. In 2019, Shahid graduated from California State University, Northridge with a degree in Wind Performance. At his time at CSUN, he won the 2019 Upper Division Concerto Competition. Shahid has toured across the world and has played flute with several ensembles including Bellflower Symphony Orchestra, Song of Angels Flute Orchestra, Whittier Regional Symphony, and LA Symphonic Winds. In addition, he often gigs on his doubles, oboe, saxophone, and clarinet. Currently, Shahid teaches with New West Symphony Education through the Laby Harmony Project as the Flute Teaching Artist, and coaches

with CSUN Youth Symphony Orchestra. In 2021, Shahid will complete his Master of Fine Arts degree in Instrumental Arts at the California Institute of the Arts. Shahid joins ALF Instrumental Music this year and will be assisting Beginning Woodwind students.

osunas_music@alflintrdge.org *

* Put ALF in the subject line when communicating with Music staff



Assistance League of Flintridge Instrumental Music Program

2019-2020 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Classes begin the week of September 9, 2019 and end the week of April 27 - May 2, 2020

**Due to unforeseen circumstances, please note the changes below
effective 8/26/2019 - We apologize for any inconvenience**

Palm Crest Elementary (PCR)

String Orchestra	Room 25	Monday Afternoon	3:00 pm
Beginning Strings	Room 25	Tuesday Morning	7:05 am
Beginning Band Brass	Room 25	Wednesday Morning	7:05 am
Beginning Band Woodwinds	Room 25	Thursday Morning	7:05 am
Concert Band	Room 25	Friday Morning	7:05 am

La Cañada Elementary (LCE)

String Orchestra	Room 21	Monday Morning	7:00 am
Concert Band	Library	Monday Afternoon	3:00 pm
Beginning Band Woodwinds	Room 21	Tuesday Morning	7:00 am
Beginning Strings	Room 21	Wednesday Morning	7:00 am
Beginning Band Brass	Cafeteria	Wednesday Afternoon	3:00 pm

Paradise Canyon Elementary (PCY)

Concert Band	Room 35	Monday Morning	7:00 am
Beginning Band Brass	Room 35	Tuesday Afternoon	3:00 pm
Beginning Band Woodwinds	Room 35	Wednesday Morning	7:00 am
Beginning Strings	Room 35	Thursday Morning	7:00 am
String Orchestra	Room 35	Friday Morning	7:00 am

ALF Chapter Meeting Room (CMR)

Beginning Band Percussion	CMR	Saturday Morning	10:00 am
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Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2019-2020

Is the ALF Instrumental Music Program Right for Me?

Parents: There are many avenues to choose from while pursuing an educational experience in music for your child. The ALF Instrumental Music program is a fun, economical, and enriching educational opportunity! Group classes meet before and/or after school. It requires dedication and commitment from both you and your child. Please take the time to sit down with your son/daughter and go through the following list. Hopefully it will help you determine whether or not your student will benefit from this program.

For the Prospective Music Student: Does This Describe You?

1. I am very interested in learning to play a musical instrument.
2. I will try my best to practice every day without being told and I have room in my daily schedule to do so. I understand that practicing at home by myself is the key to my success in the music program.
3. I am a good listener and I have good concentration skills. I don't need to be reminded to listen.
4. I am respectful of my teachers and other students.
5. I understand that a musical instrument is not a toy and should be treated with care.
6. I am very supportive of others and enjoy working as a team. I try my best to always have a positive attitude!
7. I can behave and work independently while the teacher is working with another student.
8. When I get frustrated, I don't give up. I understand that learning to play an instrument is not easy and I am willing to commit to the program and stick with it the entire year!
9. I can remember to bring my instrument and music to school on music days without being told.
10. I am looking forward to a good experience in music!

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2019-2020

Choosing an Instrument

When you register online, you will be able to choose the instrument your child is interested in learning. Below you will find the different instruments available for you to choose from.

The following is a list of instruments appropriate for this age:

Strings - Violin, Viola, Cello

Woodwinds - Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Oboe

Brass - Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone (a miniature Tuba)

Percussion - Percussionists will be introduced to bells, snare drum, bass drum, cymbals and all hand percussion

Having a balance of instruments is vital to the sound of any orchestra or band. The most popular instruments are the flute, clarinet, and violin. The less often picked instruments are the viola, cello, trombone, French horn and baritone. If your student wishes to learn one of the more popular instruments and for them there is no alternative, we recommend registering early.

Attending the Demonstration Concerts and the Instrument Petting Zoo can help your student narrow down the type of instruments that appeal to them. If a student is already registered for a particular instrument then changes his/her mind after these events, we can simply transfer them to another class, provided there is still space available.

Demonstration Concerts

ALF hosts Demonstration Concerts at each school site to introduce the different instruments. During these concerts, students are able to hear what an instrument sounds like when played alone or in groups. This year, the Demonstration Concerts will be held at PCR on August 19, LCE on August 20, and PCY on August 21.

Instrument Petting Zoo

ALF also offers an Instrument "Petting Zoo" at Lanterman Auditorium, where students can actually try out the various instruments and receive guidance from professional musicians. Look for this unique opportunity on Saturday, August 24 from 10 AM to 12 PM.

More Information

A great website for demonstrating an instrument with pictures and descriptions is www.dsokids.com. Click on LISTEN, then click Listen by Instrument. You can also take a field trip to a music store and check out the instruments you may be interested in.

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Getting an Instrument

You are expected to provide a good-quality instrument, in working order, for your student. Here are your options for obtaining one:

Rent from Assistance League of Flintridge (ALF)

ALF has instruments available for rent. The cost of the rental is \$200 for the school year, and if selected, this charge will be added during the registration process. This is a significant savings as compared to a store rental. However, there are a limited number of instruments available to rent and there is a chance that there may not be enough for all students who want them. If a student is flexible on their instrument choice, they will be more likely to obtain an instrument on Rental Day. If an instrument is not available at all for a student, the Rental Fee will be refunded.

Instrument Rental Day

Saturday, September 7, 2019

Lanterman Auditorium, Back Room

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM for New Students

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM for Returning Students

Percussion - ALF DOES NOT RENT percussion instruments. Percussion students are required to have their own Percussion Kit which includes a practice pad, bells, drum sticks and mallet sticks. ALF does not have these pieces available for rent; they can be rented or purchased locally.

Strings - String students must attend Rental Day and be measured for the appropriate size instrument.

Parents must sign a contract accepting responsibility for the rented instrument and agree to repair or replace it, if necessary. Students must also take responsibility for the care of their instrument to prevent damage or loss. Rented instruments are due back at the Spring Concert, on the last day of class, or after Summer Rental in July. A late fee may be assessed for any instruments returned after the designated rental return day.

Rent from a Local Store

There are several stores in the area that rent and sell instruments. Included below is a list of music stores for you to investigate. Call around for prices as rental costs are all different.

Purchase an Instrument

There are several places to look for buying an instrument. For some, this may be a more economical choice. We **HIGHLY** recommend that at this age, you **do not purchase a brand new or professional model instrument**. It is the same consideration as purchasing a new car. The instrument immediately depreciates in value, and chances are, your son/daughter will change instruments several times in the future. If your child is a string player, the instrument size changes as the player grows. You can get a very good quality used professional or student-model instrument for anywhere from \$150 to \$1,000 depending on the instrument and how much searching you are willing to do. Many stores offer both new and used instruments for sale. Use caution when buying new instruments for sale online. Many of these instruments look beautiful but do not play well and are poorly built. It is much better to buy an instrument from a music store to ensure quality and some kind of warranty. If you would like recommendations for brands to look at for purchase, please feel free to e-mail your instructor.



Assistance League of Flintridge Instrumental Music

MUSIC STORES

The following stores rent musical instruments locally:

Benning Violins/Studio City Music
11340 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City, CA 91604
818-762-1374

Bertrand's
(Formerly Pedersen's)
2618 West Burbank Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91505
818-848-9665

Bertrand's
(Formerly Old Town Music Co.)
145 Vista Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91107
626-793-4730

Bertrand stores rent string and band instruments

Charles Music Store & Studios
421 North Glendale Avenue
Glendale, CA 91206
818-242-6597

Ferguson Music/The Horn Guys
3704 Foothill Blvd.
La Crescenta, CA 91214
818-248-7550

Metzler Violins
604 South Central Avenue
Glendale, CA 91204
818-246-0278

Metzler specializes in all stringed instruments

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Sahak Karapetyan - Beginning Strings & String Orchestra Instructor

Ripsi Yepremyan - Beginning Strings & String Orchestra Assistant Instructor

Beginning Strings – Curriculum

1. Music book - Essential Elements for Strings, Book 1 with EEi * with name of instrument, violin, viola, or cello
2. Know the parts of the instrument
3. Know how to properly care for the instrument
4. Know and understand the following music fundamentals
 - a. Line, staff, and clef signs
 - b. Measures and measure numbers
 - c. Reading music from the staff
 - i. be able to identify by sight all notes learned in class
 - ii. be able to figure out names of notes not learned in class
 - d. Rhythm
 - i. be able to count and perform accurately rhythms consisting of whole, half, dotted half, quarter and eighth notes in various combinations
 - ii. ties
 - e. Time signature
 - i. know where it is on the staff and what the numbers mean
 - f. Key signature
 - i. know where it is on the staff
 - ii. understand the information it gives
 - g. Repeat signs
 - i. first and second endings
 - ii. repeats within a section
 - h. Rests
 - i. be able to identify and perform whole, half, and quarter rests
 - i. Accidentals---sharps, flats, naturals
 - j. Play a D Major scale
5. Fingering
 - a. Know the names of the strings and the notes on the G, D, and A strings
 - b. Know proper left hand position
 - c. Know the fingerings for the notes on the G, D, and A strings
6. Bowing
 - a. Know the parts of the bow
 - b. Be able to hold the bow properly
 - c. Be able to keep the bow straight and play in different parts of the bow
 - d. The symbols for Down and Up bow
7. Musical Terms
 - a. Pizzicato, Arco
 - b. Solo, duet, tutti
 - c. Tempo – Andante, Moderato, Allegro
 - d. Melody, Harmony
 - e. Crescendo, diminuendo, retard, fermata
 - f. Dynamics – piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte
8. Conducting – Be able to follow a pattern of 2/4, 3/4/ or 4/4 time

* Students are given a music book at the beginning of the school year. If lost, the book must be replaced by the family at their own expense. Replacement books are available at some local music stores or through the publisher at <https://www.halleonard.com/ee/strings/book1.jsp>.

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Michael Davis - Beginning Brass & Concert Band Instructor
Phillip Yao - Beginning Brass Assistant Instructor

Ruth Kasckow - Beginning Woodwinds Instructor & Concert Band Assistant Instructor

Shahid Osuna - Beginning Woodwinds Assistant Instructor

Sean Moriarty - Beginning Percussion Instructor
Colin Ring - Beginning Percussion Assistant Instructor

Beginning Band Instruments – Curriculum

1. Music book - Essential Elements for Band, Book 1 with EEi * with name of instrument, Bflat trumpet, Bflat clarinet, flute, Eflat alto saxophone, oboe, trombone, baritone, French horn, or percussion
2. Know the parts of the instrument
3. Know how to properly care for the instrument
4. Know and understand the following music fundamentals
 - a. Line, staff, and clef signs
 - b. Measures and measure numbers
 - c. Reading music from the staff
 - i. be able to identify by sight all notes learned in class
 - ii. be able to figure out names of notes not learned in class
 - d. Rhythm
 - i. be able to count and perform accurately rhythms consisting of whole, half, dotted half, quarter and eighth notes in various combinations
 - ii. ties
 - e. Time signature
 - i. know where it is on the staff and what the numbers mean
 - f. Key signature
 - i. know where it is on the staff
 - ii. understand the information it gives
 - g. Repeat signs
 - i. first and second endings
 - ii. repeats within a section
 - h. Rests
 - i. be able to identify and perform whole, half, and quarter rests
 - i. Accidentals---sharps, flats, naturals
 - j. Articulation – tonguing and slurring
5. Know and understand what a Round is
6. Know and understand “Theme and Variations”
7. Understand how to read a fingering chart
8. Musical terms
 - a. Solo, soli, duet, tutti
 - b. Melody, harmony
 - c. Tempo
 - d. Accent
 - e. Fermata
 - f. Staccato, legato
 - g. Crescendo, decrescendo
 - h. Dynamics - piano, mezzo piano, mezzo forte, forte
9. Understand and be able to follow a conducting pattern in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4 time

* Students are given a music book at the beginning of the school year. If lost, the book must be replaced by the family at their own expense. Replacement books are available at some local music stores or through the publisher at <https://www.halleonard.com/ee/band/book1.jsp>.

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Instrumental Music Students Will Need to Furnish the Following:

STRINGS

Violin, Viola

1. A proper-sized instrument (see music professional for sizing) with chin rest
2. Fine tuner on E string (violin) or A string (viola) with additional fine tuners as necessary (depending on string type)
3. A proper-sized bow with full hair and quality rosin
4. Durable case with bow holder
5. Music stand for home study
6. Pencil, cleaning cloth, shoulder pad (Kun highly recommended)

Cello

1. A proper-sized instrument (see music professional for sizing) with A string fine tuner (additional fine tuners as necessary)
2. Proper-sized bow with full hair and quality rosin
3. Cello strap or floor stop
4. Durable case
5. Music stand for home study
6. Pencil and cleaning cloth

BAND

Woodwinds - Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone

1. All keys, pads, corks, joints in good condition
2. Six new reeds – size 1 ½ or 2 strength (except flute)
3. Cork grease (except flute)
4. Cleaning cloth
5. Music stand for home study
6. Pencil

Brass - Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, French Horn

1. All valves, slides, water key with cork in working condition
2. Valve or slide oil and a cleaning cloth
3. Snake, mouthpiece brush
4. Music stand for home study
5. Pencil

Percussion

1. Percussion Kit – includes practice pad, bells, drum sticks
2. Music stand for home study
3. Pencil

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2019-2020

Parent Communication

Good communication between Instructors, the Music Chairman, staff and parents is vital to the success of ALF Instrumental Music. We regularly send communications and updates to parents via email. We ask for several email addresses from your family during the registration process but ask that you indicate one main email and one main phone number at the end of the process. This will be the first email or phone number that we use for your family. Feel free to forward ALF Instrumental Music emails to other family members or friends who need the information. Also, be sure to check your spam filter for emails from Thriva/Activenetwork, instrumentalmusic@alflintridge.org or the individual instructors. Do not "unsubscribe" or you may not receive important notifications from ALF.

Throughout the year, we also post the same communications on the alflintridge.org website. You may wish to bookmark your student's class page. If you missed an email, look for the information there. If your email address or phone numbers change, you can make the correction yourself by going to your Online Registration Account at <https://thriva.activenetwork.com/MyAccount/Login.aspx?Org=FlintridgeAssistanceLeague> or contact us at programs@alflintridge.org and we will do it for you. It is critical to be able to reach you if any issue with your student should come up.

Additionally, the ALF Instrumental Music Calendar <https://alflintridge.org/music-calendar/> changes frequently. Be sure to check it regularly for the most up-to-date event days and times.

Informational Parent Meeting

Parents of both new and returning music students will benefit from attending the Informational Parent Meeting on Monday, August 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Please plan to join us to learn more about this season of ALF Instrumental Music. This is a great opportunity to meet the Music Instructors and to get your questions answered.

Attendance

For the full benefit of the program, students are expected to attend class each week as well as all rehearsals and performances. It is important that students arrive on time with their instrument, music, and supplies and they MUST be picked up promptly after each class or event.

If your student is absent, contact the Music Instructor by email to let them know.

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What to Bring to Class

Music Folder & Music
Pencil
Instrument, Bow, Rosin (Strings)
Shoulder Rest (Violinists & Violists*)
Cleaning Cloth
Valve or Slide Oil (Brass)
Snake & Mouthpiece Brushes (Brass)
Cork Grease & Spare Reeds (Woodwinds)

Reminder - Class starts promptly at 7:00 am, 3:00 pm or 10:00 am so you need to come BEFORE that time to be in your chair ready to go. Please do not be tardy.

And - Be sure to have a music stand at home for practice.

* Students playing a violin or viola will benefit greatly from the use of a recommended shoulder rest rather than a sponge. We strongly suggest purchasing a KUN shoulder rest in the appropriate size at one of the local string supply stores. Please call first to make sure that they have one in stock. Your instructor can guide you in determining the correct size. You do not need the most expensive Kun. The least expensive one will do just fine. The collapsible one is very convenient for fitting in the case. You can also purchase one online. Just be sure it is the right size. Local stores where you can purchase the KUN are:

Charles Music Store & Studios
421 North Glendale Avenue
Glendale, CA 91206
818-242-6597

Metzler Violins
604 South Central Avenue
Glendale, CA 91204
818-246-0278

Bertrand's
145 Vista Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91107
626-793-4730

Southwest Strings.....www.swstrings.com
Shar Music.....www.sharmusic.com

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Practice, Practice, Practice!

Practicing on a daily basis is absolutely essential to your child's success in the music program. Students who practice retain information better and improve at a significantly faster rate than students who do not. Learning to play an instrument is a skill that requires coordination. There are hundreds of stories of students who at first didn't think they would ever be able to play, but because they practiced daily, they rose to the top of their class. Then there are students who never picked up their instrument between classes and ended up quitting due to frustration. Music should be a positive experience. Help your child to get the most out of being a part of the band or orchestra.

Students are required to practice 4 days per week. Please check your student's music folder to help them to complete their assignments. Any questions you have may be addressed with a note or email to the Instructor.

Practice Tips

1. Set aside a regular time of day that is "music time."
2. Have a special space in the house where your child will practice every day.
3. Purchase a music stand to encourage good playing posture.
4. Never criticize, only encourage!
5. 20 minutes a day of practicing is standard, however the focus should be on improvement, not on the amount of time spent practicing.
6. After they are finished practicing, please make sure they have completed their assignments.
7. Violinists and Violists should always practice while standing.
8. Brass and Woodwind students may sit or stand while practicing.

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Private Lessons

While not required, private lessons are highly recommended for all Orchestra and Concert Band students. Concert Band and Orchestra are designed as ensemble learning experiences, and as a result, focus on developing the technique and musicianship of the individual student as an ensemble participant. Rehearsal time is spent working with instrumental sections and the group as a whole rather than with individual performers. The ensemble depends on the individual's ability to learn the music on his/her own and to learn to perform with the group in class. Therefore, a student's technical progress and development is greatly enhanced by private instruction.

In addition, private lessons are important for beginners for multiple reasons. Due to the high number of students enrolled in each class, as well as the wide range of instruments they play, and our very limited classroom exposure, we can't give each student the individual attention that we'd like. This is particularly true in the case of the brass and woodwind instruments. A private lesson teacher is good for giving the needed individual attention as well as correcting bad habits that students form from lack of personalized instruction.

Assistance League® of Flintridge Instrumental Music 2019-2020

Behavior Standards

The Instrumental Music program is intended for students who are genuinely interested in learning to play an instrument and perform in a group setting. Because of the responsibility placed on each student and because of the necessity for harmonious group interaction, any student who is discourteous, disruptive or uncooperative will not be retained.

Procedure

If students are discourteous, disruptive or uncooperative, the following steps will be taken:

1. First infraction: The student will be warned and the warning recorded.
2. Second infraction: The student will be warned and parents notified. The warning will be recorded.
3. Third infraction: The student will be excluded from further participation in the program. The principal and parents will be notified. Any rented instrument must be returned immediately.

As an acknowledgement of the above, parents sign the Behavior Standards agreement as part of the online Music Registration process.

Keep this explanation of behavior standards for your records.