

**Saint John the Baptist Elementary School**  
**Orchestra Program**  
**2017- 2018**

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Saint John orchestra program as your orchestra teacher for the 2017-18 school year!

This program is open for students in 4th and 5th grades. I will accept students in lower grades who have previously been in the orchestra. Your encouragement and support during your child's orchestra experience will be essential as they begin to or continue to grow as a musician. Orchestra should be an exciting, educational, and positive experience! To make that possible, here is what is expected of the orchestra student:

- Abide by the classroom rules
- Come prepared for each rehearsal by having your instrument, music, and a pencil
- Have a positive attitude towards your fellow classmates, rehearsals, and your teacher
- Dedicate practice time outside of class where you can work at your own pace and reinforce concepts taught in class

Learning in the musical world is a try-and-try-again process which can sometimes make your child discouraged. As a parent, your gentle encouragement through the process of playing an instrument is recommended, especially if your child is just beginning. The setting aside of regular practice time every day will prove to be the most beneficial in reinforcing technique, note-reading, and posture. It is recommended that a practice space be established in the home where the student can focus on reviewing their music and other instructions taught in class.

Lastly, communication with me regarding any concerns or questions is vitally important, so please do not hesitate to call or email.

I am here to help your child succeed and experience the joy that comes from playing an instrument and making music!

Sincerely,

Denisse Vallecillos  
Director of Orchestras  
Saint John the Baptist and Juan Diego  
denissevallecillos@skaggscatholiccenter.org  
(801) 984 – 7758

## Getting Started

### Cost

\$30 per month (September 2017 through May 2018)

### When

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - 3:00pm – 3:45pm (2:30pm – 3:15pm on Wed)

Classes begin **Wednesday, Sept. 6th**

### Materials to have for class

- Instrument, bow, and soft cloth (to wipe off rosin after playing)
  - **Please have instruments by the first day of class, Sept. 6th.**
- Violins and violas must have a shoulder rest (make sure it fits your instrument)
- Pencil (no pens allowed)
- A 1-inch 3-ring binder with sheet protectors (music folders can be provided if needed)

### Instrument Options

Students in orchestra choose one of four instruments: violin, viola, or cello. Violin and viola look similar, but violins have a brighter sound while the viola has a warmer, richer sound. The viola also has the same string tuning as the cello. The cello is distinctively larger than both the violin and viola and is played while sitting.

### Getting an Instrument

Students must provide their own instrument either by purchasing one or by renting one from a music store. For beginners, renting an instrument from a music store is recommended for various reasons: (1) Music stores will work with you on changing sizes as your child grows and needs a bigger instrument, (2) Music stores will also fix the instrument for a lower cost if any damage occurs to the instrument, (3) Instruments rented from music stores are guaranteed to be set up properly and will be of better quality. Having a quality instrument is a large part of a student's success!

### Places recommended for instrument rental:

Summerhays Music  
[summerhaysmusic.com](http://summerhaysmusic.com)  
(801) 268 - 4446

Charles Liu  
[finestringinstruments.com](http://finestringinstruments.com)  
(801) 255 - 9636

### Places recommended for instrument purchase:

Adam Day Violins  
[adamdayviolins.com](http://adamdayviolins.com)  
(801) 288 - 9999

Charles Liu  
[finestringinstruments.com](http://finestringinstruments.com)  
(801) 255 - 9636

**Please fill out this form and return to the office by Friday Sept. 1, 2017.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Grade (circle one): 4th 5th Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument (circle one): violin viola cello