



PIONEER
PATHWAYS



PARENT HANDBOOK



Hill-Murray School

The Catholic Benedictine Prep School, Grades 6-12

2625 Larpenteur Avenue East, Maplewood, MN 55109

PIONEER PATHWAYS FINE ARTS PROGRAM

Contact Information

Juli Baecker

Dean of Aligned Learning

jbaecker@hill-murray.org

651-748-2232

Hill-Murray School's department of Aligned Learning through the program called Pioneer Pathways provides the fine arts programming for over twenty area partner schools. Band and students at these schools receive group lessons, participate in band rehearsals, participate in our solo and ensemble contest, and perform in perform in multiple concerts throughout the year at their school and outside of their school under the direction of band teachers employed by Hill-Murray School.

Band at your school will include one 1/2-hour group lesson and one 1/2-hour band rehearsal. Group lessons and Band rehearsals are scheduled during the regular school day. The schedule is rotated so students do not miss the same classes each week. Because of field trips, school testing, etc., some Band Days will include only a lesson or a rehearsal. There will be a minimum of 28 Band Days per year. The calendar may allow for bonus days, at no extra charge.

There are many opportunities for students to grow and excel in their musical experience through Pioneer Pathways. Students of all levels of skill, beginner through advanced, enjoy the experience of learning and academic growth through music education.

In February, all students in our program have the opportunity to perform together in our annual **"Almost Spring" Concert** held at Hill-Murray School. The big, combined school Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced ensembles and Jazz Bands sound very impressive and are a lot of fun for the students. Rehearsals for this concert are held on Tuesdays at Hill-Murray School, after school, beginning in January. Students are expected to attend at least four rehearsals, including the dress rehearsal, to be eligible to play in the concert, and are encouraged to attend them all. Band / parents need to arrange for their children's transportation to Hill-Murray School. Following the "Almost Spring" Concert, the Advanced Band and Jazz Band take an annual field trip to present a daytime concert at a location in the metro area TBD.

Jazz Band has extra Tuesday evening rehearsals at Hill-Murray and is available for an extra charge above the band tuition fee. Additionally, Jazz band has an extra spring concert beyond the performance schedule for band. Jazz Band members must agree to attend a minimum number of Jazz Band rehearsals, as specified in the Jazz Band letter, and attend at least four Advanced Band rehearsals at Hill-Murray. They must also agree to perform with both groups in the "Almost Spring" Concert and annual field trip concert, and in the extra, spring Jazz Band concert. The Jazz Band letter and rehearsal schedule will be passed out in the fall. Again, Jazz Band parents need to arrange for their children's transportation to rehearsals and concerts.

PRACTICING

Practicing at home is very important. We encourage 30 minutes of practice time six days per week. Practice assessment should be recorded and sent to the band director weekly. Practice time will also be noted on the progress report. An example of the progress report is printed below.

TUITION

Tuition rates are as follows:

	<u>Initial</u>	<u>February 10</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 st Child in Program	\$287.50	\$287.50	\$575
2 nd Child in Program	\$270	\$270	\$540
3 rd Child in Program	\$256	\$256	\$512

Tuition is the fee for lessons and rehearsals. It covers a minimum of 28 Band Days per school year. The calendar may allow for bonus days, at no extra charge. Payment Plans are available – more than one child in the program lowers the price for additional children. Tuition is due twice per school year – unless families sign up for a payment plan. Payment is due before the first day of the school year, which varies by school. Returning students typically start early in September. Beginning students typically start the later part of September. Lesson books will need to be purchased separately. **Jazz band is available for advanced band students for a fee of \$100.** Sign-up and payment will be collected in the fall of the school year at the first rehearsal.

Payment plans available: (12, 10, 6 month plans include a \$55 service fee)

12 month plan = \$52.50/mo (this also covers the fees for a payment plan through TADS – ENROLL IN SPRING)

10 month plan = \$63 / mo (this also covers the fees for a payment plan through TADS – ENROLL IN SPRING)

6 month plan = \$105 / mo (this also covers the fees for a payment plan through TADS – ENROLL FALL)

3 month plan = \$192/mo (this also covers the fees for a payment plan through TADS – ENROLL IN FALL)

Semester plan = \$287.50/semester (no fee for this payment plan - - ENROLL IN FALL)

Tuition payments will be made on the internet, on the TADS web site, using a credit card account or bank account. A detailed instruction sheet on how to make these payments will be provided separately. When enrolling, the account chosen for making the initial payment will also be used for making the following payments and will be automatically withdrawn from the account provided when enrolling in TADS. **No refunds will be given.**

Login into TADS to register: <http://mytads.com/a/hillmurrayband>

INSTRUMENT COST

Parents may buy, rent, or lease their child's instrument from the instrument dealer of their choice. We highly recommend that parents purchase a music stand to enable the student to have proper playing posture.

The lowest prices for instruments are generally available when buying rather than renting. For new instruments, large mail order companies most often offer the largest discounts. An excellent company is "the Woodwind and the Brasswind" in South Bend, Indiana, phone # 1-800-348-5003, www.wwbw.com.

Used instruments are available through newspaper ads, at garage sales, or from local music stores. Some good local stores are Cadenza, Eckroth, Groth, Music-Go-Round, Schmitt, and The Music Connection. When buying a used instrument, ALWAYS tell the seller you want your child's Band director to look it over before you pay. Local stores will generally give you a week to accomplish this. We can help you determine the instrument's condition and suggest a fair price.

Renting or leasing an instrument is, for many parents, more affordable than buying because payments can be made over time. Most of the local stores listed above have rent/lease-to-own programs, whereas most mail order companies do not. Shop carefully when renting/leasing an instrument because the interest rates and fees vary greatly from store to store.

For band instruments we believe Eckroth Music and Groth Music offer excellent rent/lease-to-own programs. A good lease program is offered by Cadenza Music. For string instruments, we believe Eckroth has an excellent lease program.

If an instrument is ordered from Eckroth, it will be delivered to your child's first lesson. Instruments from Eckroth Music will be the brands we recommend, and will come with all necessary supplies. Instruments can be ordered from Eckroth on the internet, over the phone, or by visiting the store in Roseville.

The instrument brands we recommend are:

	Recommended Models	Also Good Choices
Flutes:	Trevor James TJ10XCE	Accent ACCFL510SG Gemeinhardt 2SP, GFL400 Haynes Amadeus Pearl PF501E Yamaha YFL-221
Clarinets:	Accent ACCCL521P	Vito 7212, 7214 or Yamaha YCL-20
Alto Saxophones:	Cannon Ball CANA3000L	Vito 7131R or Yamaha YAS 23
Trumpets:	Yamaha YAM200AD	Getzen 390 or Bach TR300H
Trombones:	Jupiter 432L	Getzen 351
Percussion Kits:	Vic Firth V7806 Ross RK-1432DP Verve BK2000 Mapex MAPMCK 1432DP	Accent ACCCK510C Pearl SK 700 snare kit Pearl PK 600 bell kit

Many online retailers and some large warehouse or discount stores feature inexpensive instruments, sometimes listed as "educator approved". We have found that they are frequently substandard instruments that do not hold up well over time. Most will look nice and often will get a nice sound for the first few days, but are constructed poorly. We have seen bent keys, broken valves, and bad slides after just a few weeks of use. Many of these instruments are unable to be repaired, as replacement parts are not available or the metals are unsuitable for soldering. Many are unable to be returned, as the return period from the initial purchase may be very short. Please exercise caution when looking at off-brand instruments. Consult your Band director or an instrument repair technician before purchasing an unfamiliar brand.

JAZZ BAND

Our Jazz Band, for Advanced Band members in 6th through 8th grade, begins in November and continues into spring.

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings: 7:00 - 7:45 BAND ROOM

Rehearsals are scheduled on **all** rehearsal dates listed for the "Almost Spring" Concert **plus** additional dates TBD.

Spring JAZZ BAND CONCERT (TBD), at O'Gara's Restaurant, with the Hill-Murray School Jazz Band.

THOUGHTS ON PRACTICING

Teachers sometimes hear parents say something like this: "Johnny is losing interest in music (band) (the trumpet). He doesn't like to practice. We told him we aren't going to pay for his lessons any more because of this, so he will be quitting band."

Students in our program say it differently: "I like the trumpet/violin, I like the music, I like band, but I don't like to practice. My parents are making me quit band because I'm not practicing."

Notice there are two different perceptions of the same situation. The parent and child both agree that the child doesn't like to practice. However, the parents' conclusion is that their child no longer likes music (band) (trumpet). The child's conclusion is that he has to quit because he didn't live up to his parent's expectations concerning practicing. The truth is, no one likes to practice all the time. Even band directors don't always like to practice. Many professional musicians don't always practice. However, almost everyone likes music! Parental involvement supports the development of young musicians.

Encouraging your children in the area of practicing will have long-term rewards.

Ways parents can help

- Keep the instrument in good working condition
- Provide a distraction-free practice environment with a music stand
- Designate a regular practice time
- Sit and listen to your child
- Consider practicing as important as other homework
- Set goals
- Give rewards for goals met
- Communicate with the teacher
- **Make sure your student sends in weekly assessments**

Benefits of Music Education

SUCCESS IN SOCIETY

The U.S. Department of Education lists the arts as subjects that college bound middle and junior high school students should take, stating, "Many colleges view participation in the arts and music as a valuable experience that broadens students' understanding and appreciation of the world around them. It is also well known and widely recognized that the arts contribute significantly to children's intellectual development." *Getting Ready for College Early: A Handbook for Parents of Students in the Middle and Junior High School Years, U.S. Department of Education, 1997*

MORE SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

Students with coursework/experience in music performance and music appreciation scored higher on the SAT: students in music performance scored 57 points higher on the verbal and 41 points higher on the math than did students with no arts participation. *College-Bound seniors National Report: Profile of SAT Program Test Takers. Princeton, NJ: The College Entrance Examination Board, 2001*



SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

In an analysis of U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students, researchers found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high schools years show "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12." This observation holds regardless of students' socio-economic status, and differences in those who are involved with instrumental music vs. those who are not is more significant over time. *J. Catterall, R. Chapleau, and J. Iwanaga. "Involvement in the arts and Human Development: General Involvement and Intensive Involvement in Music and Theater Arts." Los Angeles, CA: The Imagination Project at UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, 1999*

SUCCESS IN DEVELOPING INTELLIGENCE

"The musician is constantly adjusting decisions on tempo, tone, style, rhythm, phrasing, and feeling—training the brain to become incredibly good at organizing and conducting numerous activities at once. Dedicated practice of this orchestration can have a great payoff for lifelong attentional skills, intelligence, and an ability for self-knowledge and expression." *John Ratey, MD A User's Guide to the Brain. New York: Pantheon Books, 2001*

Give your child a chance to discover the joys of music making. Join the Hill-Murray Pioneer Pathways Fine Arts Program!

SUCCESS IN LIFE

"Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and, by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective." *Bill Clinton*

