1) **How will I know if my student has been enrolled in the music program?**
Music classes will begin the week of October 3-October 7, 2022. Your student will receive an invitation to the Elementary Instrumental Music Program Canvas course. Information about the class will be posted in Canvas.

2) **Do we need to buy or rent an instrument?**
Most families rent instruments from local music stores. Repairs are covered by the store when you have insurance on your rental. Be wary of less expensive instruments; inferior instruments can make learning to play a frustrating experience. In addition, it is important to make sure your string student is properly fitted for the correct size instrument.

3) **How much does it cost to rent an instrument?**
Rental cost for an instrument can range from $30 to $55 per month or more. *Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Violin, and Viola* rent for approximately $30 per month. Larger instruments, including *Saxophone, Baritone, Cello,* and *Bass,* will typically be more expensive.

4) **Can my child still participate if we cannot afford to provide an instrument?**
Yes! CUSD has a limited inventory of music instruments available for loan. Please indicate “We are requesting the loan of a District instrument” on the registration form to be considered for an instrument loan. Eligibility is determined by factors including financial need and the number of instruments available.

5) **How will I know if my student has been approved for a district loaned instrument?**
If you request a loaned instrument, you will receive email notification from the district regarding instrument loan approval. Please be sure to update your email in Parent Connect as that email will be used in notifications.

6) **Where can I rent an instrument?**
We have provided a list of local music vendors who have served our music program in past years. The list is located in the registration packet.

7) **Is it better to buy an instrument instead of renting?**
We recommend renting for at least the first year. If your student is playing a string instrument, they will not be playing a full-size instrument until they have reached over five feet in height. This may require changing instrument sizes every year or two. If you do choose to buy an instrument, look for name brand instruments. The quality of the instrument is a key factor in your child's success. You will also be responsible for all repairs when you own an instrument. (Repairs are often covered by the music store if your rental plan includes Loss/Damage/Repair insurance.)

8) **I found a great buy on an instrument at a warehouse/department store/Internet. Should I buy it?**
Instruments purchased in this manner are often of lower quality. Students can struggle to produce a good sound and inferior instruments tend to have problems. There are many high-quality beginning level instruments on the market, which can be purchased for $250 to $400, or less if used. Your local music store can provide sales, customer service, and any future maintenance.

9) **What brands of instruments are considered quality name brands?**
- **Brass and Woodwinds:** Bach, Besson, Blessing, Buffet, Bundy, Conn, Eastman, Evette, Gemeinhardt, Getzen, Holton, Jupiter, King, Reynolds, Selmer, Vito, and Yamaha.
- **Percussion:** Ludwig, Pearl, CB700, and Vic Firth.
- **String instruments:** Eastman, Glaesel, Klaus-Mueller, Knilling, Meisel, Scherl and Roth, and Suzuki.

10) **My child wants to play flute, but we already have a trumpet. Can they just play the trumpet?**
The instrument choice is yours to make as a family, but keep in mind that beginners tend to be more successful on an instrument that they really want to play. It is also true that a student may not be as successful on one wind instrument as another due to individual physical characteristics.
11) Are there any other materials or supplies that we will need to provide?  
There are a few other low-cost materials and supplies that will be used. If assistance is needed to acquire these items, please consult with the instructor.

**Band:** Book(s), cleaning cloth or swab, oil or grease, reeds for Clarinet and Saxophone, music stand (for home practice), pencil, and a pocket folder for music.

**Strings:** Book(s), rosin, shoulder pad (violin/viola; beginners should use the sponge type) or endpin stop (cello/bass), cleaning cloth, music stand (for home practice), pencil, and a pocket folder for music.

12) Does my child need previous music experience to learn an instrument?  
Beginning Band and Strings are entry-level classes. No prior experience is necessary.

13) Are Band/Strings students given a grade?  
Students do not receive grades for instrumental music classes.

14) Are there any commitments outside of the school day?  
Students are encouraged to practice each day for 20 to 30 minutes. There are two evening District-wide concerts each year in February and May.

15) My child did not play an instrument in 4th grade but would like to start in 5th or 6th grade.  
Beginning students are welcome from grades 4, 5, and 6. Older students usually progress quickly and often enjoy helping younger students in class.

16) Are private lessons required?  
No. Private lessons outside of school are not required.

Should you have any questions regarding the Elementary Instrumental Music Program, please visit [www.cusd.claremont.edu](http://www.cusd.claremont.edu). Click the PARENT tab (Parent Resources and Links) and on the left-hand side, you will see Elementary Music.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to email: [elementarymusic@cusd.claremont.edu](mailto:elementarymusic@cusd.claremont.edu) (preferred) or leave a voice message at (909)398-0609, ext. 70272.