

Families may opt to retain teachers of their own choosing. However, by choosing teachers who are not part of Westside's elective music program (specifically as listed on the previous page), they are also passing on the opportunity for their children to take music lessons during the school day on the campus of Westside Christian School.

Commitment/withdrawal

It is understood that students who enroll in any of our music programs are committing to lessons **for the entire school year**. We believe that students benefit from committing to a full year of lessons, regardless of the instrument. Also, in fairness to the music teacher, **should a student withdraw, payment for the remainder of the semester will be required**. Failure to pay may result in grades being withheld.

Missed lessons/ absence & make-up policy

One week will be reserved at the end of the second semester for make-up lessons. Please note: *Teachers may opt to make up lessons in groups rather than as private lessons*. Students may make up **one missed (excused) absence per year**. "Missed lesson" reasons include: illness, family emergency, or snow day. "Forgot my books/instrument" **does not** qualify for a lesson makeup nor does absence due to a family vacation. To be eligible for a make-up lesson, families must notify the music teacher in advance of the absence (sick days included). Please call the music teacher at home or call the school and ask the secretary to notify the music teacher if the student is **sick on a lesson day**. **No**

credit will be given if more than one lesson per year is missed. Exceptions: an injury that prevents the student from playing or a long-term illness.

If the music teacher is absent for any reason, lessons will either be credited on the next quarter's statement (in case of illness) or (in the case of a teacher's vacation) advance notice will be given and families will not be billed for those lessons.

Performance opportunities

Participants in Westside Christian School's elective music program have a minimum of two performance opportunities per instrument. Spring and fall recitals are scheduled and students may also be scheduled to participate in our weekly school chapel services. Students may participate in Lakeside Lutheran High School's Fine Arts Fair.

Newsletter

Quarter Notes is the quarterly publication of Westside Christian School's piano program. Piano families may check this newsletter for information and updates regarding the school piano program. Check the **Wave Weekly** for updates on the other elective music programs.

Report card grades/progress reports

Students who participate in Westside Christian School's elective music program receive semester grades and semester progress reports.

Elective music program coordinator

An elective music program coordinator will oversee the registration process, collect semester grades and progress reports from each music teacher, oversee chapel services, collect fees and ensure that the program runs smoothly.

Westside Christian School

Elective Music Program



Westside Christian School
6815 Schneider Road
Middleton, WI 53562
608-831-8540

Mission Statement

Westside Christian School offers elective music options (**band, guitar, piano, strings and voice**) to develop students' maximum music potential and to encourage students to use their God-given gifts of music in the classroom and in worship.

Registration

Registration for the school **piano** program takes place in spring for returning students and in fall for new students. Registration for band, guitar, strings and voice takes place in late summer at Westside Christian School's Kick-Off Event.

Registration fees

At the time of registration, a non-refundable fee of **\$20 per student per elective** will be collected. Money collected will be used to purchase supplies needed for that particular music program, defray recital expenses, and cover the costs of maintaining, tuning, or replacing equipment used.

Eligibility

Because Westside Christian School offers a variety of "elective" music options ("elective" means **an optional course of study** and here refers to *lessons in band, guitar, piano, strings and voice that take place during the course of the school day and for which students receive a report card grade and a progress report*) students are limited as to the number of options they may choose. The following list indicates the grade levels at which students may participate in the various music options:

BAND:	Grades 4 through 8
GUITAR:	Grades 4 through 8
PIANO:	Grades PreK through 8*
STRINGS:	Grades 4 through 8
VOICE:	Grades 4 through 8

For a variety of reasons (financial, academic, practical, etc.), **we limit students in Grades K-3 to ONE**

elective music option. Students in Grades 4-8 may choose a maximum of TWO elective music options.

*Because piano is considered the "foundation instrument," we encourage families to **first** choose piano lessons for their younger children. A minimum of two years of piano lessons allows students to more easily make the switch to other instruments.

To ensure that our music teachers are paid for their work, **only students whose families are current in their school tuition payments will be considered eligible for our elective music program.**

Lesson schedule

The music teachers, in conjunction with the faculty, determine which days of the week the various elective music options are offered.

*Students in Grades K-2 receive 30- minute piano lessons scheduled during noon recess, lunch or non-academic class time.

While parents and the music teacher have input into the time of day a student's lesson takes place, the classroom teacher has the final say regarding the best time for a student to be released from class for a music lesson.

Contract

To ensure that our students and their parents understand the obligations and responsibilities involved with participation in Westside Christian School's elective music program, at the beginning of the year, we ask both students and parents to sign a contract indicating their understanding of and willingness to abide by the policies of Westside Christian School's elective music program.

Dismissal

A student may be dismissed from participation in the elective music program for any of the following:

- If the parent fails to pay for lessons as agreed upon in the contract
- If the student fails to practice regularly
- If the student has an uncooperative or disrespectful attitude
- If the student fails to make up class work missed while attending a music lesson
- If the student is failing any classes

Music bags/music stands

To decrease the wear-and-tear on music, and to prevent the loss of needed materials, materials **MUST** be brought to music lessons **in a bag dedicated for music lesson materials**. In other words, music materials **may not** be brought to school in the student's backpack. Inexpensive canvas bags may be purchased at the Dollar Store. Band students must bring their own music stands to their lessons.

Lesson payments/ music purchases

Families pay the individual music teacher on a quarterly basis. Families may pay for music on an "as needed" basis or they may pay an upfront music fee which covers the cost of any music purchased throughout the course of that year.

Music Teachers

The teachers of the various elective music options for the 2015-2016 school year include:

- Band: Mr. Brian Hildebrandt
- Guitar: Mr. Jon Povich
- Piano: Mrs. Karen Hunter & Mrs. Kris Lund
- Strings: Ms. McKenzie Kohrt
- Voice: Mrs. Melissa Dyer

These teachers will agree to background checks and will operate as independent music contractors of our school's elective music program.