

Music Ensemble Information and Enrollment

Covenant Christian Academy Music Department
Mrs. Lisa Coleman, Director of Fine Arts
Mrs. Jennifer Conant and Mrs. Elizabeth Singleton, Fine Arts Music Faculty

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS & ENSEMBLES

All students in Grades 4-12 are invited to participate in *Covenant's Instrumental Music* program. Students who participate in this program will be able to take lessons from our instrumental instructors on one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium/baritone horn, and drums/percussion. Band students will participate in one of the ensembles depending on proficiency and Grade level. Piano, voice, guitar/bass and strings lessons will be available during our after-school program and are separate from the band program. *See the FAQ section for more info on the after-school lesson program.*

Grade 4 Beginning Band / Grade 5-6 Band & Lessons: These bands are open to students in Grades 4-6 wishing to pursue a band instrument. Instruments include flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and percussion. There is also space for one electric bass player and two keyboard players in each band. All students are required to take lessons in order to participate, either at Covenant or with a private instructor outside of school. Each band meets once per week during school hours. Private or semi-private lessons (no more than 2 students at a time) are also given once per week during or after school hours. Lessons are given for 28 weeks during the school year at a cost of \$700. *See the FAQ section for more info about fees.*

Please note: Grade 4 Band students will need to purchase a copy of the ***Tradition of Excellence: Comprehensive Band Method BOOK 1*** (the “red” book) for their lessons and band rehearsals. This book can be ordered through the school or purchased from another source. If you would like a book to be ordered for you, please email Mrs. Coleman. Instruments are not provided for the student, but instrument rental options are available.

USLR Concert Band & Lessons: A combined Logic School and Rhetoric School Concert Band is open to all instrumental students in Grades 7-12 who have completed at least 2 years of instrumental lessons. Instruments include all winds, brass and percussion. There is also space for one electric bass player and two keyboard players in each band. Students in Grades 7-8 are required to take lessons at Covenant or with a private instructor outside of school in order to participate. Private lessons are not required for RS students, although it is highly encouraged. Private or semi-private lessons (no more than 2 students at a time) are given during or after school hours. Lessons are given for 28 weeks during the school year at a cost of \$700. There is no fee for band-only participation, provided that a student is in 9th grade or above or they are taking lessons with an outside provider. *See the FAQ section for more info about fees.*

USLR Jazz Band: The Jazz Band is open to Logic School and Rhetoric School students. Students who participated in this ensemble last year are not automatically accepted, but should plan to audition if multiple students are interested in a specific instrument. New incoming students should speak to Mrs. Coleman about joining to be sure it is a good fit. This ensemble will be challenged to play more difficult and complex music in a variety of contemporary idioms with an emphasis on Jazz. Wind and Brass students must also participate in Concert Band in order to qualify for participation. Rhythm section students (piano, bass, guitar, drums) must also participate in either Worship Band or Concert Band in order to qualify for participation. There is no fee for Jazz Band.

Logic School and Rhetoric School Worship Bands: These groups will focus on contemporary worship music to enhance worship during weekly student chapels. Other contemporary music will be performed as time permits. Please note - these groups do not fulfill the Performance Requirement for grades 7 & 8, nor does it count for Fine Arts Credit at the Rhetoric School level. This year we will once again have an interview/audition component. There is no fee for Worship Band

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VOCAL ENSEMBLES

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, serve the Lord with gladness. Come before His presence with singing!” – Psalm 100

Junior Chorale: Students in Grades 4-6 who *do not* participate in band will be required to participate in Junior Chorale. *Students may elect to participate in both Junior Chorale and band.* A variety of Unison and 2-part choral literature is studied, including Sacred, Folk, Classical, and contemporary styles. This variety will provide students with a wealth of knowledge based in choral singing and strengthen their voices while working together as a group. Junior Chorale meets once per week and there is no fee.

Logic School Chorale: This group is open to all students in Grades 7-8 and emphasis is on 2- and 3-part choral works. A variety of musical styles will be developed including a continuation from Junior Chorale plus Musical Theatre, Gospel, Pop and other contemporary genres. Combined performances with the Logic School Worship Band may be included. Logic School Chorale meets twice per week and there is no fee.

Rhetoric School Chorale: This group is open to all Rhetoric School students. More challenging choral literature will be explored with an emphasis on 3-part and 4-part singing as well as some *a cappella* music. A variety of musical styles will be further developed from Logic School Chorale. The Rhetoric School Chorale meets twice a week with an occasional after-school rehearsal and travels to performances off-campus to add to the challenge of the Ensemble. There is no fee for RS Chorale.

EXPECTATIONS

In order to *strive for excellence* all students in band and/or chorale are expected to:

- Attend every scheduled rehearsal, arriving on time and fully prepared (bringing a note if late)
- Practice regularly each week (see FAQs below for specifics)
- For instrumental students - attend weekly lessons, arriving on time and fully prepared
- Maintain proper grades in all academic classes (low grades will result in suspension from the ensemble)
- Participate in all scheduled concerts and outside music events
- Dress in the appropriate attire for concerts/festivals (see FAQs below for specifics)
- *Do your best, honor God, and have fun!*

MUSIC DEPARTMENT FAQ

How can I rent an instrument? Which instruments can I rent?

Band instrument rentals are handled through the school directly. Instruments available include flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, and snare/bell kit. Most instruments are pre-owned, but in excellent condition and of quality craftsmanship. This allows us to keep rates at almost *half* the cost of commercial rental companies. The total cost is \$150 for the school year, averaging out to be just a little over \$15 per month. Contact Mrs. Coleman for more details.

What are the music participation fees and what do they pay for?

The participation fee for the CCA Lesson program this year is \$700. This includes 28 weekly private or semi-private lessons, sheet music for band, and other band expenses. This does not include instrument rental or lesson book costs. If you were to take lessons from a private instructor at the going rate of \$30 per half-hour, you'd spend \$840 just for the lessons! At CCA, band students receive the invaluable experience of playing with an ensemble in various settings PLUS 28 weeks of lessons. *A terrific deal!* This fee can be paid all at once or be split up into two payments: \$350 due Friday, September 8th and \$350 due Friday, January 5th. Payment is made directly to Covenant. *Other payment options may be available - contact the business office to discuss options.*

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(Students in Grades 4-8 are required to take lessons and it is highly recommended that RS band students participate in some form of private instrumental lessons whether at Covenant or off site.) **Please fill out the enclosed Music Registration Form and return to the school as soon as possible.** You can also drop it off at the main office (Attn: Lisa Coleman).

Why is it required for students in Grades 4-8 to take lessons in order to be in band?

It is vital to the individual student as well as the entire group to maintain steady progress from week to week while working in an instrumental ensemble. If one student falls behind, then it slows down the learning process for the entire group. Private lessons not only provide a process of accountability for the student, but it allows students to work on individual performance issues that may not be able to be addressed during the group rehearsal. It is particularly important for those students who are taking lessons outside of school since the Covenant music faculty has no way of judging student progress other than the rehearsal itself. Students who play keyboard, bass, or another instrument and take lessons outside of school must maintain progress equal to those students taking lessons at Covenant. If progress is not maintained, students will be removed from band. High School students are not required to take lessons to be in a band, but highly encouraged to continue if able.

What about after-school lessons?

Our after-school lesson program includes instruction for drums, piano, voice, guitar, bass and strings. Students receive 28 lessons during the school year and have the opportunity to perform in a student recital up to three times per year. Lessons are \$26 per half hour plus a one-time nonrefundable registration fee of \$25, for a total cost of \$750 (rounded down). This can be paid all at once or be split up into two payments: \$400 due Friday, September 8th and \$350 due Friday, January 5th. Payment is made directly to Covenant. *Other payment options may be available - contact the business office to discuss options if necessary.* **Please fill out the included After-School Lesson Registration Form and return to the school as soon as possible.** You can also drop it off at the main office (Attn: Lisa Coleman).

A Music Lesson Handbook will be emailed to all parents of students who register for lessons at CCA for this coming year. If you would like to review the information ahead of time, including teacher bios and lesson calendar, please contact Lisa Coleman (lisa.coleman@ccamail.org) and request a copy of this handbook.

Why is the CCA Strings Program higher in cost?

The CCA Strings Program offers more than just private lessons. Included is a weekly 30-minute group ensemble class. This rehearsal is used to teach skills that all students can learn simultaneously, plus benefit from group practice and performance as well as the camaraderie and social skills that naturally develop out of these experiences. A private commercial program like this outside of Covenant could easily run upwards of \$1,500 per year, with private lessons averaging \$30-40 per half hour and ensemble rehearsals at an additional \$500 per year. *We have made every effort to offer this program at a more affordable rate!*

How much should students be expected to practice?

An article was published by a musician from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra where he stated that his parents required him to practice every day for the same amount of time that he spent in his weekly lesson. His lessons were 30 minutes long, so he practiced 30 minutes a day! While that's the ideal for the more advanced student, it may not be possible for everyone. Each student should practice at least 75-100 minutes per week. This works out to 15-20 minutes per day from Monday-Friday (taking the weekends off if necessary). *Do not practice for 75-100 minutes all in one sitting.* This is not helpful. It is best to establish a regular and consistent routine.

What should my child wear for concert and recital performances?

For concerts, the following dress code is required:

CHRISTMAS CONCERT (December 2017)

ALL Bands, Chorales and Grade 7/8 General Music Classes have the following dress code:

GIRLS: Black pants (no leggings or jeans) or black skirt (skirt length must be at the knee or lower), solid “Christmas Red” blouse or sweater with sleeves (short, $\frac{3}{4}$ or full length), and black dress shoes. Simple earrings and/or a necklace are allowed. (Grammar School Girls: if you cannot get a red shirt for the concert, a white shirt is acceptable.)

BOYS: Black pants, solid white Oxford shirt with long sleeves and collar, black socks and black shoes (preferably no sneakers unless this is all you have, but must be black), and a tie. Grammar School boys may choose a tie of their choice (red would be great, but not required) as long as there are no cartoons or writing on the tie. Upper School boys will be provided with a red tie.

Students in Pre-K through Grade 3 General Music Classes may dress as indicated above *or* come dressed in “Sunday Best” (please no jeans or t-shirts).

SPRING CONCERT (May 2017)

ALL Bands and Chorales:

GIRLS: Black pants (no leggings or jeans) or skirt (skirt length must be at the knee or lower), solid colored blouse or shirt with sleeves (short, $\frac{3}{4}$ or full length—white is acceptable, but not black), and black dress shoes. Simple earrings and/or a necklace allowed.

BOYS: Black pants, solid colored Oxford shirt with long or short sleeves and collar, black socks, black shoes, and a tie (your choice as long as there are no cartoons or writing on the tie).

Students in Pre-K through Grade 3 General Music Classes may dress as indicated above *or* come dressed in “Sunday Best” (please no jeans or t-shirts).

STUDENT RECITALS (December 6th, 2016, March 2017 and May 2017)

Recitals are less formal and no specific dress code is required, however students are encouraged to dress neatly and present themselves in a “professional” manner at all recitals. Attire for other concerts will be determined and communicated well in advance as needed.

Please note: the December and May recitals are for students participating in the CCA Lesson Program only. The March recital is open to all CCA students.

If I have any questions, whom should I contact?

Lisa Coleman, our Director of Fine Arts, will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the music program at Covenant. You can reach her by email at lisa.coleman@ccamail.org or by phone at 978-535-7100 x 510. Students are also encouraged to contact Mrs. Coleman if they have any questions about their lessons, ensembles and/or music.

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