



**Dear Fourth Grade Parents,**

In September 2020, the fourth-grade students will begin meeting twice per week. We will start by introducing the string family of instruments and helping students select an instrument to learn. Our goal is to have everyone obtain their choice of rental instrument by November.

Orchestra class begins with split classes, with cellos in one group and the violins/violas in the other group. As the year progresses, we will begin to combine the instruments during orchestra class so that the students can practice playing together as a group.

Fourth grade students are required to take **weekly private lessons, as stated in the handbook**, – either at School (using one of the private teachers listed below), or with a teacher of their choice outside of School. Students should practice at home regularly.

Private lessons are offered after school hours in person or via Zoom. For students wishing to take their music lessons at School, I will assign a private teacher during the first full week of school. The assigned teacher will then contact parents to set-up a lesson schedule. Please contact me directly if you require special accommodations.

Half-hour lessons cost **\$40 per session**. Parents will be invoiced directly by the private instructor. It is important to note that private lesson instructors are not responsible for lessons cancelled without 24-hour notice. If your child is sick please notify your private lesson instructor as soon as possible, as well as the school.

The School recognizes that the cost of private lessons can be a financial hardship for some families. A brochure and grant application for the [Jeanette Resnick Music Lesson Endowment Fund](#), which provides subsidies for students in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, is below.

Learning how to play an instrument has many long-term developmental benefits for a child. I encourage you to read the section at the end of this document for more information regarding the benefits of instrumental study.

Sincerely,

**Shiori DeBellis**

Orchestra Director

The Waldorf School of Garden City

225 Cambridge Ave.

Garden City, NY 11530

P. 516.742.3434

F. 516.742.3457

E. [chazonos@waldorfgarden.org](mailto:chazonos@waldorfgarden.org)

### List of Private Teachers:

- **Ms. Shiori DeBellis**, bass, cello, violin, viola
- **Ms. Hyunju Ji**, violin, viola
- **Mr. Max Flanagan**, violin
- **Ms. Janet Holmes**: cello, bass
- **Mr. Kieran Franzone**: guitar, violin
- **Mr. Steve DeBellis**: drums, percussion

### Recommended Rental Agents for Stringed Instruments:

The following stores allow rental payments to accumulate towards the purchase price of an instrument in the future. Do not buy an instrument from ebay.com unless it is returnable and has been seen by your instrumental teacher. The setup of the instrument is most important and needs to be adjusted by a luthier.

**1. The Long Island Violin Shop (Charles Rufino)**

8 Elm Street, Huntington NY 11743-3402

Phone: (631) 427-3569, Fax: (631) 223-2269

E-mail: [info@liviolinshop.com](mailto:info@liviolinshop.com) Charles Rufino: LI Violin Shop

**2. Samuel Kolstein and Son (ask for Manny Alvarez)**

795 Foxhurst Road, Baldwin 11510

Manny@Kolstein.com

(516) 546-9300

**3. Johnson Strings:** <https://www.johnsonstring.com/rental/>

Johnson String Instrument

1029 Chestnut Street

Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464

[info@johnsonstring.com](mailto:info@johnsonstring.com)

Tel: 617. 964. 0954

Toll Free: 800. 359. 9351

**4. Flushing Violin Shop (Sophie, strings only)**

Phone: 718-353-6815

Email: [flushingviolinshop@gmail.com](mailto:flushingviolinshop@gmail.com)

By appointment only

135-15 37th Avenue, Suite 3F, Flushing, NY 11354