



**Dear Parents Grades 5-8,**

With the new school year approaching, I would like to share several important reminders regarding the School's instrumental music program.

The Music Department is excited to be utilizing **MusicFirst** this year. MusicFirst is an immersive online learning management system for K-12 Music Education. We are confident that the integrated software will provide a fun and immersive opportunity for enrichment in our students remote learning experience. We will continue to utilize MusicFirst as a supplement for learning once we resume classes in person.

**Please make arrangements to rent your child's instrument** prior to September. A list of instrument rental agencies which have been used by our parents in the past can be found on the back of this letter.

**Concert Band** is offered for students in **7th and 8th grade**. Concert Band is for students who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. This includes, but is not limited to: clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, oboe, flute, trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba, and percussion. Please contact Mr. DeBellis if your child is interested in being in the Concert Band.

**Weekly private lessons are required.** You are encouraged to make your own arrangements for Private Instruction in a manner that is most convenient for you. However, if you need help finding an instructor, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. DeBellis for Orchestral students and Mr. DeBellis for Band students.

Our School is very fortunate to have an exceptional group of Music Teachers who have a love for sharing their passion for music with young people. For the time being, all lessons with our faculty will take place through Zoom. These lessons cost **\$40 per 30-minute session**. Parents will be invoiced directly by the private instructor on a monthly basis. If you would like your child to be assigned to an instructor at school, please email me with the following information by **Friday, August 28th**:

- 1) Name of Child
- 2) Choice of instrument

Visit our website to download a brochure about the **Jeanette Resnick Music Lesson Endowment Fund**, which provides assistance for private music lessons to families with financial need. Please read the brochure for more information about qualifications. As overall funding is limited, I encourage you to complete and submit the enclosed grant application by **Friday, September 25th**.

Throughout the school year, I hope you will feel free to continually communicate with me and your child's private teacher regarding your child's progress. Your direct involvement means a great deal to your child, their teachers, and the overall quality of the instrumental music program at the Waldorf School of Garden City.

Sincerely,

Steve DeBellis

Shiori DeBellis

Band Director  
E. [debellisS@waldorfgarden.org](mailto:debellisS@waldorfgarden.org)

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

**\*\*\*If your child is new to the School and needs to choose an instrument, \*\*\* Please complete the Student Instrument Selection Form on our website.**

**Private Music Lesson Instructors**  
**Teaching at the Waldorf School:**

(Full biographies are available at [waldorfgarden.org](http://waldorfgarden.org))

Mrs. Shiori DeBellis: bass, cello, violin, viola

Ms. Hyunju Ji: violin, viola

Ms. Alexandra Calabro: violin, viola

Ms. Janet Holmes: cello, bass

Mr. Steve DeBellis: drums, percussion

Mr. Kieran Franzone: guitar, violin

**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](http://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. **Johnson Strings:** <https://www.johnsonstring.com/rental/> will rent online and ship the instrument to you. It is used as the sole rental source for the Brooklyn Waldorf School.
2. **Flushing Violin Shop (Sophie)**  
Phone: 718-353-6815  
Email: [flushingviolinshop@gmail.com](mailto:flushingviolinshop@gmail.com)  
135-15 37th Avenue, Suite 3F  
Flushing, NY 11354
3. **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
4. **Samuel Kolstein and Son (ask for Manny Alvarez)**  
795 Foxhurst Road, Baldwin 11510  
[Manny@Kolstein.com](mailto:Manny@Kolstein.com)  
546-9300
5. **Laconia Music Center** (all instruments)  
410 Jericho Turnpike New Hyde Park, NY  
(516) 352-4070
6. **Wright Music** (all instruments)  
938 Port Washing Blvd  
(516) 883-0043