

Crane, Fyle, Leary, and Winslow Elementary Schools

2025-2026 School Year ~ 4th Grade Band, Chorus, and Orchestra

June 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians of Third-Grade Students,

As your third grader prepares for fourth grade, we invite them to explore the exciting world of music by joining our intermediate performing ensembles program. This before-school program offers a valuable opportunity for all Rush-Henrietta intermediate students to perform in an ensemble, in addition to receiving a weekly in-school small-group lesson.

We've seen firsthand, and research confirms, that students involved in their school music program often show increased motivation, improved readiness to learn across all subjects, and higher attendance rates. Participating in a music ensemble requires a commitment to regular practice at home and consistent attendance at lessons and rehearsals. We encourage you to consider this enriching experience for your child.

To help us plan for the fall, please submit an interest form by Wednesday, June 25.

Music Ensemble Options

Fourth-grade students can choose to:

- Sing in the chorus.
- Learn an instrument in the band or orchestra.

Students may participate in the chorus and one instrumental group (band or orchestra), or they can choose to focus on just one of these groups. The specific options are listed on the interest form. To support participation, the district provides morning buses for students in before-school ensembles.

Instrument Selection Process

Your child doesn't need to choose a specific instrument right now. Our goal is to gauge their interest so we can prepare for their arrival this fall!

Third graders have already been introduced to instrument families in music class. Additionally, students will attend a school assembly in June where they'll see and hear band and orchestra instruments up close.

In September, our band and orchestra teachers will observe students and send home recommendations for instruments to consider. Ultimately, you and your child will make the final decision on which instrument they will learn.

Securing an Instrument

The district offers a limited number of band and orchestra instruments for rent through the school at a reduced rate, available through a lottery system. You'll have the opportunity to indicate your interest in the school lottery in September. Families not selected for the lottery will receive information about renting an instrument from a local music store. No rentals are needed for chorus.

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Available Instruments

Band:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- French Horn
- Baritone
- Tuba
- Percussion

Orchestra:

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Bass

Please Note on Instrument Transportation:

Due to size, some instruments cannot be safely transported on school buses. Parents will be responsible for transporting larger instruments to and from school on lesson and ensemble days.

Allowed on Buses: Clarinet, Flute, Percussion Kit, Saxophones, Trombone, Trumpet, Viola, Violin.

Not Allowed on Buses: Baritone, Tuba, Cello, French Horn, String Bass.

Ready to get started? Scan the QR Code to indicate your child's interest in the before-school performing ensemble program.

If you have any questions, please contact the band, chorus, or orchestra teacher at your child's school.

Thank you for supporting your child's musical journey!

Sincerely,

Dominic Pickard

Director of Visual & Performing Arts



School	Chorus	Band	Orchestra
Vollmer Elementary School	Gretchen Foster gfooster@rhnet.org	Caroline Engard cengard@rhnet.org	Shannon Beikirch-Miller sbeikirchmiller@rhnet.org
Sherman Elementary School	Caroline Aroune caroune@rhnet.org	Jill Pringle jpringle@rhnet.org	Nicholas Dubin ndubin@rhnet.org