



SMP
 SEATTLE
 MUSIC
 PARTNERS

SMP FAMILY HANDBOOK



**SEATTLE
 MUSIC
 PARTNERS**

2019-2020

(206) 408 8588

SEATTLEMUSICPARTNERS.ORG

Welcome to Seattle Music Partners!

Congratulations! You have joined a community of musicians and families who are focused on learning instrumental music, having fun, and social responsibility. *Seattle Music Partners* started in 2000, with a handful of students from Leschi Elementary and a few volunteers from Garfield High School. Our program now serves Leschi, Bailey Gatzert, Lowell, and Madrona schools! With the help of over 130 high school and community volunteers, we serve about 100 students throughout our musical community. It is SMP's mission to teach students in low-income elementary schools how to read music and play an instrument in a band or orchestra. Our program mission is supported by three pillars:

1) Quality Music Instruction- Our staff and volunteers are dedicated to providing students with a quality music experience. Students not only learn how to make a sound on their instrument and use their ears, they learn to read music and even compose music of their own. Over the years we have developed a curriculum for beginners as well as a curriculum for returning/advanced students, and we've measured changes in students' playing abilities as a result.

2) Youth Development- We believe that learning to play an instrument is not only enriching and fun; it's a great way to teach students responsibility, respect, and collaboration with others. Through our ensemble and private lessons, students learn that they are responsible for showing up, having all their materials, and working to create something with their peers.

3) Social Justice- We want every student to have access to the wonderful world of music, and we want our students and volunteers to be good musical citizens. We are dedicated to ending the inequity of music education in low-income schools by providing music instruction to students who otherwise may not have the opportunity. We are dedicated to doing work to make the world a better place.

SMP Programming

Snackivity

As soon as students arrive, they receive a snack and a music-related activity that gets them ready to learn and play for the afternoon. This is also time that SMP staff shares important announcements with students.

Tutor Days

On tutor days, students receive one-on-one lessons from their tutors to learn skills on their instrument, work on pieces of music, and get practice assignments. Every student in SMP gets paired with a high school, college, or community musician who will be his/her tutor for the school year. Sometimes a tutor may have to be absent on a tutoring day and miss a lesson. SMP will provide a substitute tutor for students on these days so that they will always receive a lesson on a tutoring day.

Group Days

On group days, students from the same instrument families all learn how to play together! One teacher, whom we call a "Teaching Artist", leads the class and teaches students to read music, play alongside other instruments, and eventually be able to perform music as one unified group. Volunteers called "Student Assistants" are in the classroom to assist students with their music and help them succeed.

Student Participation Agreement

In Seattle Music Partners we will be:

- **Safe** with our instruments, each other, all students, staff, and special guests.
- **Respectful** of ourselves, each other, all students, staff, special guests, and school property.
- **Responsible** for our behavior within individual and group sessions, and with our instruments, music, and accessories.
- **Persistent** and **Focused** On our music lessons and home practice time to improve on our instruments.
- **Creative** in all music lessons, rehearsals, and workshops where musical expression and new ideas are key.

Supplemental Programming

SMP Concerts!: SMP students from all four campuses gather at one of our schools and perform as a band and orchestra. Typically, there will be two evening concerts per school year.

Individual Student Recital: Recitals are an opportunity for each SMP student to choose and perform a piece of music for an audience of family and friends! Recitals take place on tutor day during regular program time.

Guest Artists: There are tons of amazing musicians from around Seattle, sometimes even from around the world, who want to share their talents with young musicians. That's why we often have musical guests visit SMP to share their super skills with students and answer tons of questions! Sometimes these guests perform for the entire school.

Field Trips: Now and then SMP students get to go on field trips during the school day to see musical performances.

Attendance Policy

Students can't learn if they're gone. Being a musician and a member of SMP is a commitment and students must show up to get the most out of this experience. Our staff schedules a lot of people to show up in order to help SMP students succeed (Tutors, Teaching Artists, Students Assistants, and Staff members) and they are counting on you to be there! SMP is two days a week, so we ask that any appointments or other after school commitments be scheduled around SMP when possible. We know there may be extenuating circumstances throughout the year but other than those rare instances, attendance at SMP is mandatory.

*If you do need to miss a day, please notify SMP in advance. If we are not notified in advance, an absence will be marked as unexcused. Since we often have a waitlist, and students only benefit from attending regularly, **3 unexcused absences will result in possible dismissal from SMP.***

Family attendance at SMP events and performances is not mandatory, but we expect students to be there. For every event, SMP staff will contact you ahead of time to confirm whether you can come or not. We will contact you with whatever preferred method of communication that you indicated on the student signup sheet Please inform us if your contact info or preference changes!

Tips for effective home practice

Probably the most challenging obstacle you and your child will face is not how to produce a tone, press a button, or count a rhythm; rather, it will be learning HOW to improve. Here are some quick tips to help families with their practice routine:

- Positive comments and words of encouragement! Remember, without a music teacher present, the family's role is to keep things light and positive.
- Ask which piece they're playing and ask what the easiest or hardest part is.
- Have them work in small chunks of the hardest parts and then add the easiest later.

Here are some basics for all instrumentalists:

Practice in a well lit room and use a sturdy chair (not the couch or bedside), a music stand at the right height, their music book, a pencil, a metronome (search for a free app!), and most of all...a **daily routine**.

Improving on an instrument takes focused work and the entire family can play a part in the routine by setting a time and place, quieting the house, sticking to a time frame, understanding any frustration, and offering encouragement. As your musician gets older, they'll understand that true practicing happens at home and rehearsal happens at school with SMP!

Instrument Care

Part of learning to play an instrument is learning how to take good care of it. All instruments are very fragile and valuable. Proper care of your instrument will keep it in good playing condition and make it easier to play. To keep it from getting damaged, follow these guidelines on how to take care of your instrument: Store your instrument in its case when not in use. Never rush through the process of assembling or taking apart your instrument - be calm and methodical. Never shut the lid of your case without double-checking that everything is properly stored. If you are distracted, it is very easy to forget that the case is unfastened and then pick it up by the handle and have the instrument spill on to the floor! Do not place anything in the case that can press on the instrument - even your music book! Instruments should be kept indoors and away from any heaters. If any problems come up with your instrument, please let us know.

All Instruments: Find a flat, sturdy space (the floor is always best) to put your case down. Figure out which side of the case goes down and which side goes up – often there is a brand label on the side of the case that goes up.

Trumpet & Trombone: The most common problem with these brass instruments is that the mouthpiece can get stuck in the instrument. SMP has a special tool for removing the mouthpiece safely so please don't try to remove it at home!

In case of an accident, retrieve any broken pieces- no matter how small- save them in an envelope, and get the instrument to an SMP staff member as soon as you can.

SMP Program Days/Times for 4th/5th students

LOWELL	LESCHI	MADRONA	BAILEYGATZERT
Mon, 3:25-4:45	Mon, 4:00-5:15	Tues, 3:45-5:00	Thurs, 3:45-5:00
Tues, 3:25-4:45	Wed, 2:45-4:00	Thurs, 3:45-5:00	Fri, 2:25-4:05

TIP: A wonderful resource for parents/guardians of young musicians is the book, **Growing Your Musician; A Practical Guide for Band and Orchestra Parents** by Tony Bancroft. This easy-to-read paperback is full of explanations, helpful anecdotes, and useful information for any adult wanting to be more hands-on in their support of a young student.

General inquiries

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