

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Welcome...or welcome back! We are excited to be once again offering the Cherubs Music Program to you and your children. I hope you are as excited as I am! As I'm sure you already know, participating in a music program has many educational, social and emotional benefits in addition to the music experience itself. But did you know that music aptitude continues to show improvement in children who receive music training up until the age of 9, with the most improvement shown from birth through age 6?

This will be a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore all aspects of music in a positive and fun-filled social environment, while they also grow in their faith. It is also an opportunity for them to learn the basics of music, so they will be better prepared to participate in the children's choir when they enter the 3rd grade. In addition, it can be an opportunity for you to share in this experience with your child, further strengthening the parent-child bond. Aunts, uncles, grandparents, older siblings, etc. have also enjoyed taking on this role.

To offer this program in the safest environment possible, we will need parental participation. ***For those with children in the preschool group, I am asking that one parent or other adult (aunt, uncle, grandparent, godparent, older sibling etc.) attend the entire session*** in order to assist you child(ren) in participating in the group and to attend to other needs as they arise. It is highly recommended that you actually join the circle and play *with* us! This will enable you to engage your child in singing the songs or playing the games between sessions, thus reinforcing the concepts and strengthening the parent-child bond. Over the years, we have found that most parents/guardians enjoy being part of the experience and joining in the activities.

For the older group (K – 2), we will need to have **two parents present for each session, on a rotating basis**, to assist with trips to the bathroom, encourage participation, and to be present in the case of an unlikely emergency. I will be gathering information as to your availability and will set up a schedule by the 2nd week of classes. Of course, **any parent is invited and encouraged to attend any session** at any time!

I will have a student **sign-in sheet each week**. Please sign your child **in and out** for each session. If someone other than a parent will be picking your child up, please make a note of that in the "comments" section. I will also have name tags made up for each child after the first session. After signing in, please assist your child in finding his/her name tag and putting it on.

Please fill out the enclosed information sheet and either return it to me electronically or by fax prior to our first meeting, or bring it to the first session. It is important that I have the emergency contact information at the first session. ***Print out two copies so you will have one for your own reference.*** (It has the schedule for the Semester.) Tuition for this program is ***\$25 per child or \$35 per family per semester (checks payable to Padre Serra with Cherubs in the memo section)***. Please bring the check with you to the 1st session.

I am really looking forward to spending the next few months with you and your children. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Barra
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