

Spring, 2018

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Welcome...or welcome back! I am 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. 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, etc. have also enjoyed taking on this role.

To offer this program in the safest environment possible, for the 1st and 2nd graders we will need to have **two additional parents present for each session** 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 on the attached information sheet. Of course, **any parent is invited and encouraged to attend any session** at any time! You can even 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.

Over the past few years, we have extended the program to ***include children as young as 3 years of age (and on occasion, their younger siblings.)*** For those ***with children in preschool, I am asking that one parent or other adult or older sibling attend the entire session*** with your child in order to assist them in participating in the group and to attend to other needs as they arise. I have found that most parents/guardians enjoy being part of the experience, and joining us in the activities. If your child is in Kindergarten, you will be given the option of staying for the session, or being a part of the rotation of parent helpers (just ask...I'll explain).

I will have a **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.) Also, in order to help defray some of the costs of the program, we are asking for a \$25 voluntary donation ***per family (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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