



Prodigy Program

Westwood Performing Arts

Spring 2026 Newsletter

Thank you!

We hope this newsletter finds everyone well and engaged in exciting year-end celebrations! Thank you for another wonderful year of learning and making music. As the school year draws to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the accomplishments within the Prodigy Program, thank our instructors for their creative teaching, provide some important updates about the Prodigy Program, and encourage you to register for the 2026-2027 season. I hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Brianna Creamer

Prodigy Program Director

Prodigy Student Spotlight

Congratulations to all of the students who auditioned and were accepted into the Eastern District Junior Festival, Senior Festival, MMEA All-State Festival, and All-Eastern Festival!



Junior District Festival

Ari Bern - Trumpet
Colin Chen - Trombone
Julian Fung - Clarinet
Yooju Han - Flute
Rose Horn - Vocal
Amelia Jones - Vocal
Ian Lawrence - Trumpet
Ben Morabito - Clarinet
Shunya Moy - Trumpet
Anna Sheff - Vocal

Senior District Festival

Conor Tsang - Tenor Sax
Deepak Viswalingam - Clarinet
AJ Alex - Trombone
Nico Castro - Tenor Sax
Jason Delli Carpini - Trumpet
Jack Goodwin - Tenor Sax
Michael Mansour - Voice
Braedan Murphy - Bari Sax
Melissa Yang - Clarinet

All-State Festival

Lilith Brooks - Percussion
Ensemble
Charlie Goodman - Chorus
Michael Mansour - Chorus
Melissa Yang - Band

Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors!

We congratulate them on all their hard work while a part of the Prodigy Program, and we wish them the best of luck as they continue on their journey.



Spring 2026 Recitals and Concerts

Prodigy Recitals

Thursday, May 7th	Students of Irina Narychkova	5:00 PM	Auditorium
Friday, May 15th	Students of Melissa Laurencio	7:00 PM	Auditorium
Tuesday, May 19th	Students of Johann Soultz	3:00 PM	Chorus Room
Thursday, May 21st	Students of Joe Casano	4:00 PM	Chorus Room
Wednesday, May 27th	Students of Andrew Bedrossian	6:30 PM	Little Theater
Monday, June 1st	Students of Doug LaRosa	7:00 PM	Chorus Room
Tuesday, June 2nd	Students of Harry Bedrossian	6:00 PM	Chorus Room
	Students of Saada-Smith/Staudinger	5:30 PM	Little Theater
Thursday, June 4th	Students of Michael Casano	6:00 PM	Band Room
Monday, June 8th	Students of John Clark	TBD	Cafe
Tuesday, June 9th	Students of Joshua Lennox	6:00 PM	Chorus Room
Thursday, June 11th	Students of Maxwell Parker	5:00 PM	Chorus Room
Monday, June 15th	Students of Alicia Winslow	7:00 PM	Little Theater
	Students of Marlene Markard	5:00 PM	Chorus Room

School Concerts

Wednesday, May 13th	All-Town Strings	WHS Auditorium
Monday, May 18th	TMS Choruses	WHS Auditorium
Tuesday, May 26th	WHS Spring Showcase	WHS Auditorium
Thursday, May 28th	TMS Bands	WHS Auditorium
Wednesday, June 3rd and Tuesday, June 9th	5th Grade Band	WHS Auditorium

Time to Register for the Prodigy Program for 2026-2027!

Registration for the 2026-2027 Prodigy Program season will open on June 8th!

Returning students: If you are a returning Prodigy Program student, you will be automatically enrolled in lessons for the 2026-2027 school year on your current instrument and with your current instructor. If you are an existing student who wishes to change their registration (e.g., different instrument, different teacher, new address or payment method), or if you wish to withdraw from the Prodigy Program, please click [here](#) to access the parent portal.

New students: If you are a new Prodigy Program student, please go to the Prodigy Program website to [create an account](#). If you are unsure as to which instrument or teacher to choose, please contact the Prodigy Program Director at prodigyprogram@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Please do not attempt to register or make changes to 2026-2027 registration before June 8th. Please also note that registration will close on October 9th.

Just a reminder that we are in year two of the phased tuition increases. These increases are necessary for the program to continue to offer high quality music education, and is phased in an effort to continue to keep the increases manageable for our families. The Westwood Public Schools have approved a phased-in tuition and fee increase for the Prodigy Program that will go into effect as follows:

Type	Current Tuition	2025-2026 Tuition	2026-2027 Tuition	2027-2028 Tuition
Semi-private	\$25	\$28	\$31	\$34
30 minutes	\$35	\$38	\$41	\$44
45 minutes	\$50	\$57	\$61.50	\$66
60 minutes	\$63	\$76	\$82	\$88
Annual Family Registration Fee	\$20	\$40	-	-
Bi-Annual Payment Fee	\$20	\$30	-	-

Tuition assistance will remain available for eligible families. Monthly Payment Plans and a Bi-Annual Payment option will also remain available for all families.

Please do not mail checks, applications or correspondence to the Prodigy Program office as our administrative staff remains virtual and is not on-site to receive mail at this time. If you require assistance with any part of your registration or have any other concerns or questions, please contact the Prodigy Program at prodigyprogram@westwood.k12.ma.us.

Prodigy Faculty Updates

A few members of the Prodigy Program faculty are leaving the program in order to pursue other professional opportunities. We wish to thank Maxwell Parker (flute) and Mike Williams (percussion) for their dedication and contributions to the Prodigy Program. They will be missed!



We are also pleased to welcome new faculty members Joe Boulos (percussion) and Grace Choi (voice/piano). We are excited to have them joining us for Fall 2026. Please feel free to read excerpts from their biographies below, and more about them on the faculty page of our website.



Joe Boulos is a multifaceted educator, ethnomusicologist, and percussionist whose work bridges the rich musical traditions of West Africa, the Arab World, and the Americas. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Performance with a concentration in Drumset and World Music from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, as well as two master's degrees—an M.M. in Jazz Pedagogy and an M.A. in Musicology—from West Virginia University.

Now based in New England, Joe remains an active performer, collaborating with jazz ensembles, Arab music groups, and West African drum and dance collectives. Known for his cultural fluency and stylistic versatility, he brings a dynamic and informed presence to every performance. His intercultural collaborations foster dialogue, creativity, and a deeper appreciation for global musical traditions.

Grace was raised in a classical music loving family in Seoul, Korea. She started playing piano at age 6, and then learned voice, conducting, and composition. As a pianist, singer, and a conductor, she has been performing with various musical groups and soloists with diverse styles of music. She studied piano, composition, voice, and theory from Brandeis University, Peabody Conservatory of John Hopkins University, and Seoul National University, Korea, and also studied conducting from various university workshops in the US. She taught at Brandeis University, Northeastern University, and Suzuki Music School in Newton. Currently, she teaches piano and voice at Lincoln and Hanscom Schools, and Wayland School of Music. On Sundays, she's working as a Music Director at Baptist Church in Lexington.



A Friendly Reminder About Attendance Policies

Our **current Absence and Makeup Policy** is set forth below. Please click [here](#) to read all of the Program's policies.

1. **Private Lessons:** Students are entitled to make up lessons for **two excused** absences. Excused absences are those in which (i) the student has provided at least 24 hours advance notice to the instructor (not the Prodigy Program Director), or (ii) the student is ill and cannot attend the lesson (whether or not 24 hours notice is provided). Absences for **any other reason** are not excused and are forfeited. **More than two absences of any kind are forfeited.**
2. **Semi-Private Lessons:** Because semi-private lessons involve other students, lessons are **not** made up when a student is absent.
3. **Classes:** Because classes involve other students, lessons are **not** made up when a student is absent.
4. **Teacher Absence:** A teacher's absence from a lesson or class will be made up by the end of the school year.
5. **School Closings and Holidays:** All lessons missed because of school closings for religious holidays or inclement weather will be made up.
6. **Credits and Refunds:** Tuition credits or refunds will be provided for long-term illness or injury.

In-Person and Remote Lesson Options Continue

Due to demand for virtual lessons, this Fall, the Prodigy Program will continue to offer lessons in both in-person and remote formats.

Upon registration, students will be able to choose remote or in-person lessons for the 2026-2027 school year. Once students have chosen a format, students will be committed to that format for the entire school year.

Remote lessons will be available for every instrument as well as voice, but may not be offered by every Prodigy instructor. In-Person teachers may occasionally use a remote format but only upon agreement with the families that they teach. They are limited to two-three remote lessons per year.

Westwood Winds is back!

Greetings from the Westwood Winds Community Band!

We are very excited to let you know that REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the Westwood Winds 2026 Summer Season.

Please visit our website at www.westwoodwinds.org and click JOIN NOW to register.

Information about rehearsal dates and concert dates can be found on our website. Any interested student between the grades of 8-12 is invited to join, and encouraged to attend an open rehearsal on **Tuesday, June 9th, 2026**. Performances are on August 3rd, 5th, and 6th!

We hope you will be joining us this year, and please spread the word! The best way to grow our membership is by word of mouth and personal connections.

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/Westwood/](https://www.facebook.com/Westwood/)

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