



**Daily Program
Student/Parent Guide**

September 2021 – June 2022

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General Purpose

Soundscapes is an El Sistema-inspired youth development program, which strives to give students a life steering after-school experience. Through the program, students will strengthen their self-image, discipline and leadership skills.

Program Schedules:

Carver Daily Program:

- Monday – Friday (2:55 pm to 5:00 pm)
 - Level 1A: Monday and Thursday
 - Level 1B: Tuesday and Friday
 - Level 2: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
 - Level 3/4: Monday through Friday

Greenwood Daily Program:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (3:55 pm to 6:00 pm)
 - Level 1A: Monday and Thursday
 - Level 2: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Soundscapes will not have a program on snow days, half school days, teacher in-service days, or scheduled holidays (unless notified otherwise). In short, when the school is closed Soundscapes is closed (unless notified otherwise).

Program participants will:

- Receive general and instrumental music instruction
- Participate in self-esteem building and other types of group social skills sessions
- Be provided with the opportunity to excel in leadership positions
- Receive a snack during the program

Daily Program Arrival and Departure:

All students who do not attend the Daily Program's host school must fill out our COVID-19 Health Screening form prior to entering the building. The form may be accessed at www.soundscapes.org/screening. If a screening form has not been completed for that day, the student will be asked the screening questions prior to participating in the program.

Bus Riders:

Buses depart from:

- Carver Elementary promptly at 5:05 pm.
- Greenwood Elementary promptly at 6:05 pm.

Note You must have selected “Bus Rider” on the Soundscapes registration form or have notified Soundscapes in writing in order for the student child to ride the bus home. NNPS can only provide transportation to students that live within the host school zone and are current students of NNPS. **It takes approximately 3 business days to make a change to the bus routes.**

Pick Up:

You may pick your child up at the program’s end time (**5:00 pm for Carver; 6:00 pm for Greenwood**). Only a parent/guardian or any individual that has written permission may check out participants. Individuals having parental permission to pick up a participant will be asked to show picture identification at the time of pick-up. We reserve the right to ask for photo identification from any individual picking up a participant. Please be prompt at picking up the student, if a parent is continuously late, we will need to find an alternative way home or the student will be removed from the program.

Note If you must sign your child out early, please call the Site Manager contact below. We would like to encourage the student to stay through the duration of the program as much as possible; doing so will ensure that the student is able to keep current with the program.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Soundscapes is committed to equal opportunity in employment and education. No person at Soundscapes will be denied the opportunity for employment, education, or subject to discrimination in any project, program, or activity because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, or disability.

Evaluation and Advancement

Soundscapes uses a 9-dimension rubric to evaluate student progress. The following 9-dimensions progress from 1 (Beginner), 2 (Fundamental), 3 (Intermediate), 4 (Advanced), and 5 (Inspiring/Professional). There are four social dimensions and four musical dimensions, and one (Instrument Care) is a social and musical dimension. The dimensions are:

- Behavior (Social)

- Instrument Care (Social/Musical)
- Aural skills and applications (Musical)
- Music Reading skills and applications (Musical)
- Physical Technique (Musical)
- Sound Production Technique (Musical)
- Practice (Musical)
- Ensemble (Social)
- Relation to Audience (Social)

You will receive two progress reports throughout the year, one in December and one in July. We use this information to help us determine how best to serve the student's musical and social growth.

Instruction and Levels

Students will take part in one of four levels:

Level 1 – Learns how to read music, sing, play together, bucket band, and recorder.

Level 2 – Learns how to play an instrument at a basic level, participates in music skills class

Level 3 – Play instrument in large ensemble.

Level 4 – Taking private lessons at an intermediate level or above and participates in more advanced ensembles

Physical Correction of Posture and Technique

Posture and instrument placement are very important. There may be times that an instructor might touch a student to correct a posture or technique problem. Examples might include: directing shoulders down to encourage relaxation, fixing a hand position, fixing a slanted head, two fingers on the head, and two fingers on the lower back to correct posture. There may be some students that are sensitive to touch, please let us know if this is a concern by contacting the director or program manager. Due to COVID-19, we are keeping this at a minimum and will try to explain desired posture and technique as much as possible.

COVID Personal Protection Equipment (PPE):

We ask that all students use face masks and bell covers for their instruments.

- Strings: Must wear masks the entire rehearsal

- Brass: Must wear masks with a slit for the mouth and bell covers, puppy pads will be provided for “water” and must be disposed of after rehearsal
- Woodwinds: Must wear masks with a slit for reed instruments and bell covers. Flutes may play with masks under their chin and without “bell covers” but must immediately place the masks on when not playing
- Percussion: Must wear masks the entire rehearsal

Experiences and Partnerships

Soundscapes has formed partnerships with several of the largest arts organizations in Hampton Roads. Ferguson Center for the Arts provides free or low-cost tickets to Soundscapes to several of their performances throughout the year. The Virginia Symphony Orchestra sends some of its musicians to work with our students in the spring. The Virginia Arts Festival sends guest artists to play and teach our musicians throughout the year. Through its daily and youth orchestra programming, Soundscapes performs approximately 30 performances utilizing students from all programs.

Concerts

The Daily Programs will perform a minimum of three concerts per ensemble but may schedule more. In addition, we will follow local COVID restrictions and may utilize technology to create virtual concerts if need be. Soundscapes will announce concert dates separately.

Supervision

All Soundscapes participants will be under the supervision of Soundscapes staff. Participants will be allowed to use the bathroom closest to each activity within the program site.

Behavior Expectations

We strive to provide an atmosphere conducive to safety and appropriate behavior while still having fun. Proper conduct while in the program is the joint responsibility of musicians, parents, and program staff. The Site Manager is notified of all participant discipline matters and handles those that warrant more extra attention. Please review the following with your child before the program begins:

- We expect proper behavior from others and ourselves at all times.
- We treat others, as we would like to be treated, with kindness and courtesy.
- We communicate with words and do not hit each other.
- We use appropriate language and gestures.
- We only eat at the designated time. Therefore, candy, gum, or food are not allowed in rehearsal.

- We clean up after ourselves.
- We take turns.
- We respect and listen to the Soundscapes staff.
- We put things back where we found them.
- We do not abuse the rights or property of others.
- We keep each other's safety in mind at all times.

If the Behavior Specialist recommends temporary suspension, the musician's parent will be contacted via phone or note and will not be allowed to return to the program until a specified time.

“1-2-3 Magic”

1-2-3 Magic is a behavioral management system developed by clinical psychologist and author, Dr. Thomas W. Phelan. The system is designed to work with students from pre-k through 8th grade. It focuses on using a simple counting and consequence system for students, by deterring and eliminating inappropriate behavior and encouraging favorable behavior. This system is well established and is used in homes, daycare centers, and school districts throughout the country.

Soundscapes believes that the most important thing in developing a positive behavior profile is to provide consistency.

Dismissal from the Program

Soundscapes reserves the right to dismiss a student from the program due to attendance or behavioral issues such as hitting, fighting, possession of weapons, continuous disrespect.

Attendance

Soundscapes expects all participants to understand that regular attendance is critical to achieving success within the program. If your student has an excused absence during school, it will carry over to the Soundscapes after-school program. It is the responsibility of the parent/student to notify us of the excused absence with a written note. Soundscapes reserves the right to dismiss any participant that has **six unexcused** absences from rehearsals. **No performance may be missed** unless the Site Manager has given prior consent. If a student misses a performance without Soundscapes consent, we reserve the right to dismiss the student from the program.

Information Dissemination

Soundscapes will communicate with you via phone using a phone message service, directly via phone, email, text, traditional mail, or paper notes sent with students. Therefore, you must provide us with the most current contact

information. If we do not have working phone numbers for you, we will not let the child continue to come to Soundscapes' Daily Program. To retrieve the latest message, you may call (757) 693-6009 from the phone from which you would have received the message. Phone numbers that you may see on your Caller ID are:

- (757) 273-6178 – Main Soundscapes Office Number
- (757) 693-6009 – Message retrieval number
- (833) 882-8390 – Text messages

Concerns

Any concerns or comments should be addressed to the Site Manager or Program Director.

Contact Information

Carver Elementary

Joe Hamm, Carver Site Manager
Direct Line (call/text): (757) 320-9267
Email: jhamm@soundscapeshr.org

Greenwood Elementary

Lynn Ballou, Greenwood Site Manager
Direct Line (call/text): (757) 842-0659
Email: lballou@soundscapeshr.org

Administration

Rey Ramirez, Program Director
Direct Line: (757) 273-6178 x2
Email: rramirez@soundscapeshr.org

Website

www.soundscapes.org