

Grade Orchestras Parent Information Update

Date

Dear Grade Parents,

Hopefully you are receiving lots of information home about Grade Music. Your child participated in another orchestra demonstration today.

Here are a few details, just in case the other notes haven't made it to you!

What is orchestra?

The string instruments: **Violin, viola, cello, and string bass**. On Friday September 6th, all fifth graders will be asked to make a choice as to which music group they would like to participate in (see the music dept. letter). Friday afternoon they will attend their first day of orchestra class.

Is there a cost?

There is no extra cost for music instruction at school; the cost for orchestra is the instrument, and a book. Depending on the instrument, you may need extra strings or a shoulder rest.

Where do we get an instrument?

- Purchase an instrument outright - from \$100.00 (used) to \$400.00 (new)
- Rent-to-own an instrument by the month - approx. \$15-40 per month
- Borrow an instrument from a friend or relative.
- If you already own an instrument, we will be happy to advise on its condition.
- Please be careful about buying instruments on the Internet. Prices can be low but often the instruments are very poor quality.

The annual instrument rental night is scheduled for

Thursday, September 12th, from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at the high school cafeteria. There will be representatives from four music companies present to allow you to purchase or rent an instrument and book.

Why orchestra?

- Our school has an exciting, high quality string program offering many enrichment activities.
- Orchestra literature is one of Western culture's great treasures.
- There has been much publicity about recent research that indicates the powerful effect music can have on the intellectual and creative development of children. Research is continually showing that early music education has multiple benefits for brain development and for teaching structure and discipline in study habits.
- The opportunities for lifelong participation are numerous.

What about Marching Band and Fiddling?

- Many of our marching band members are string players who learn a second instrument.
- All students in grades 6-8 and advanced fifth graders are invited to join Fiddle Club (a before school Community Education class). Playing a stringed instrument prepares students to participate if they wish.

Questions?

Please feel free to call us at school. We are looking forward to meeting all of you!

Sincerely,

Teacher name, email and number