

6th, 7th and 8th Grade Orchestras

Welcome to Orchestra!

Orchestra is one of the most unique and exciting opportunities offered by our schools. In learning the skills needed to become a musician you will learn the importance of self-discipline and enjoy the rewards of personal accomplishment. As an orchestra member you will experience the joy of making music with others.

Expectations-Be safe-Be responsible-Be respectful

1. Come to class *prepared* and *on time*.
Being prepared means to have *practiced all assigned* music and to always bring *Your instrument, music, and pencil*
2. Always sit with good posture
3. Respect others. Play or talk only as directed or appropriate
4. Care for your instrument properly. Keep your bow and hands to yourself.
5. Do not chew gum or bring food, candy, or drinks to class
6. Do your best at all times, bring a positive attitude, and enjoy the music!

Checklist for what you will need for orchestra

- _____ Instrument and bow (properly sized) in good playing condition
- _____ Extra set of strings (violin and viola)
- _____ Folder to keep music in (3 ring binder)
- _____ Rosin and soft cloth for cleaning instrument
- _____ Music stand for home practice
- _____ Essentials Elements bk I, II, or III depending on grade level (available for \$8.00 from me or Pat's music in Etna)

Your cooperation in making sure your child is properly equipped will be appreciated! Please do not attempt to repair your child's instrument. I can do minor repairs or refer you to an experienced repair/person.

Pat's music will be at JHMS in the commons Thursday, September 10th, from 2:30-5p.m. to help with purchasing instruments and books. I will also be there to assist with any questions about the program and to check out school cellos.

Instrument Rental

Instruments are available for rental through Pat's music and from the school. Cello's can be rented through the school for a one-time semester fee and must be returned. Violin and Viola's can be rented towards purchase from month to month from Pat's music. The rental fee is:

Cello \$90 for the year (from school)

Violin and Viola \$25 per month (from Pat's music)

Grades are based on class participation-50%, practice charts-20%, assignments/quizzes-20%, and concert attendance-10%.

All Concerts and performances are mandatory! If there is an emergency I must be notified by phone, letter, or e-mail if a student is unable to attend.

Books

We will be using the *Essential Elements 2000 books* for the middle school. Sixth grade will use book one, seventh grade book two and eighth grade book three. These books will be used for the entire year and are available for \$8.00 (from either me or Pat's music in Etna). **All other materials will be provided.**

Extra credit:

- Attend a concert or performance
- Write a paper/oral report on a composer or piece of music

Note about school music: I would like all students to purchase a 3 ring binder to keep music in. I will provide clear plastic inserts to keep music in good condition. Mark all music in *pencil only* and erase all marks before returning parts. Students will be charged for lost or damaged music:

Private Lessons are not required but are strongly recommended. Students who take lessons outside of class will almost invariably progress at a higher rate than those who do not. They give students confidence and improves the sound of the instrument at a much quicker rate! Music to the ears!! I can give you names of private teachers if you request.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please contact me at JHMS.

Learning a string instrument requires considerable effort and commitment, parent participation is essential! I welcome your comments and feedback on how the program is working for your child. Thank you and I look forward to a fun and productive year.

Vincent R. Gutwein
Director of Strings in School
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Please fill out the form below and return in order to register and to receive information about the program throughout the year.

Keep the first two pages of this handout for future reference!

Please return this page only to the middle school by Sept. 14th!

String Class Registration form

Students name: _____

Grade _____ (6th, 7th, or 8th) instrument _____

Parent or Guardian _____

Phone day: _____ evening: _____

E-mail _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

This page is due Friday Sept 4th. Please take this home to discuss with your parents and return to the orchestra room. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you soon!!