

Future CMS Orchestra Member Guide

CMS Middle School Orchestra Directors Association

Newsletter

Spring



Stanford University researchers found for the first time that musical training improves how the brain processes the spoken word, a finding that researchers say could lead to improving the reading ability of children who have dyslexia and other reading problems.

Inside This Issue:

Money	2
Time	2
Grades	2
Activities	3
Keep In Mind	4
Reminders	4

Be A Part of the Fun & Success!

You are invited to be a part of the fun and success in your middle school orchestra program!

Students not only learn to perform on musical instruments, but they also learn the essentials of teamwork, self-discipline, individual responsibility, and social skills that prove to be effective in any career, sport, or other activity.

Students are offered instruction beginning in the sixth grade on

one of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass.

Beginning instruction ONLY takes place in the sixth grade.

Hopefully, many of your questions about signing up and requirements for participation will be answered by reading this publication.

More information is available at the web site listed at the top of the page.

What Is This All About?

You should or should have received a letter from Mr. Mark Propst, Performing Arts Specialist.

During the spring, middle school band and orchestra directors will be visiting the elementary schools to inform rising sixth grade students about the different instruments and answer questions about the band and orchestra programs.

Look for the Instrumental Music Study Permission Form that will be attached to your child's middle school registration form. This form must be

returned with the registration form in order for students to join band or orchestra.

Directors will be in contact regarding important dates and times available for helping your child select the best instrument for his or her success.

Please contact the directors listed on the web site at the top of the page for more information.



*Did You Know...
66% of college
music majors who
applied for medical
school in 1996 were
accepted while
only 44% of
biochemistry
majors were?*

How Much Money Will This Cost?

Being in orchestra requires a financial commitment, but you will be able to work out arrangements with a local music store. The music stores may be able to offer discounts on the purchase of an instrument or can set you up on a monthly payment over the course of time.

In fact, the local music stores generally offer instrument rental programs. These programs are perfect for beginner students who may be "experimenting" with their

commitment to something new.

The rental programs protect you from investing money in an instrument when you are not 100% certain that your child will continue in his or her orchestral instruction.

After your child's first year and with the permission of the director, it is suggested that you trade in the rental instrument for a higher quality instrument for purchase on a monthly payment plan.

How Much Time Will This Take?

Beginning orchestra students are only required to participate in two or three concerts during the school year depending on the director's requirements.

Beyond that, other opportunities for students to participate may be available as well as private lessons, which may be highly encouraged by the director.

Students may also be required to engage in regular home practice routines like having homework

from a "regular" class; however, home practice requirements usually range from 20 to 30 minutes per day for five days which leaves plenty of time for participation in other activities and schoolwork.

Students' progress and success is determined by what they put into their practice and commitment.



Will Being In Orchestra Affect My Child's Grades?

YES-research shows that participation in orchestra will affect your child's grades **for the better!**

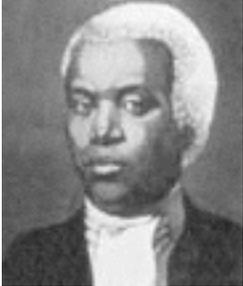
On average, students who participate in school music organizations **score 89 points high on standardized tests like the SAT**

than students without musical coursework.

Also, 70% of the nation's universities report that participation in a musical organization is a higher consideration than test scores for admission.

Can My Child Participate In Orchestra & Other Activities?

YES!!! - Not only is participation in other organizations possible – it is highly ENCOURAGED!! However, it is important to remember that commitment to the orchestra program and practice time is necessary. Many of the skills each student will learn in orchestra (teamwork, group accountability, etc.) will be GREAT assets toward their participation in athletic programs or any other organization. In fact, many great athletes, actors, professional musicians, and Presidents were active in orchestra.

			
<p>Benjamin Banneker Astronomer & Mathematician <i>Violin</i></p>	<p>Jack Benny Comedian <i>Violin</i></p>	<p>Louis Braille Teacher of the Blind Invented "Braille" <i>Cello</i></p>	<p>Prince Charles Future King of England <i>Cello</i></p>
			
<p>Meryl Streep Actress <i>Violin</i></p>	<p>Keith Jackson Football Player <i>Cello</i></p>	<p>Thomas Jefferson Former President <i>Violin & Cello</i></p>	<p>Paula Zahn CNN News Anchor <i>Cello</i></p>

Statistics researched over more than a decade show that students who receive musical education improve their performance in classes such as mathematics and sciences. The evidence is so powerful that the federal government included music as a core subject, along with reading, writing and arithmetic in the Federal law known as *No Child Left Behind*.

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Contact the orchestra director at your middle school for more information.

Keep In Mind...

Just like a sports team, not everyone can play the same position. Not everyone who "really wants to" play a certain instrument will be able to do so. Instrument selection will be based on physical characteristics, musical aptitude, academic history, pre-determined instrumentation needs, and instrument availability.

Do **NOT** immediately run out and get an instrument until you have met with the director and have been given all of the necessary information about the instrument and the list of required accessories to accompany the instrument.

Do **NOT** buy used instruments without consulting the director and do **NOT** buy from anyone other than a reputable music vendor without consulting the director.

Consider this purchase as important to your child's success as the purchase of a vehicle to your family's safety.

Final Reminders

No prior experience or knowledge is necessary to join orchestra.

Turn in your **Instrumental Music Study Permission Form** by the deadline with the registration form.

Make sure at least one parent attends any Orchestra Parent Information Sessions.

Discuss with your child the

importance of having a second and even a third choice for an instrument.

Discuss with your child the importance of staying committed to the orchestra for at least one year to really get an understanding of being in orchestra and experiencing the joy of participating in instrumental music.