

[en Español](#) (translation done by Google)

Good afternoon 7th Grade Orchestra Families!

Monday, February 5, 2024

It is amazing that 3rd Quarter has begun! Orchestra students have been working on some exciting music that will be performed at our next concert in March. Ask your student to play some of their new pieces for you - we are all really loving movie and pop music this quarter!.

Northfield Food Shelf Donations: Update

Donations for the Northfield Food Shelf were collected prior to the Winter Orchestra Concerts on Monday, December 18. We collected 233 pounds of food AND \$608! Thank you for your generosity!

What have we been working on in class?

Seventh Grade students have been moving very quickly through *String Basics Book 2*. We have been working on several different finger patterns and continuing to refine a variety of bow techniques. We are also beginning the next step in tuning independently! In 6th Grade, students worked on tuning each string by matching the pitch that we heard. This year, 7th grade students have worked on tuning all 4 strings, with only being provided one string to match to by ear. This is a difficult, but rewarding, skill! We will be adding this tuning practice into our ensemble rehearsals this week. Students should still ask a teacher to assist with large tuning problems, as it is still easy to break strings when the string is significantly out of tune.

Orchestra Lessons

Students received a paper copy of the 3rd Quarter lesson schedule to put in their binders. We have already used class time to write each of these lessons in our planners and set-up calendar reminders on the iPad. Please ask your student to see this lesson schedule - any reminders you can provide at home are greatly appreciated!

Upcoming Concert Information: Tuesday, March 19, 2024

The next NMS Orchestra performance is the much anticipated All District Orchestra Concert on March 19, 2024 at Northfield HIGH SCHOOL. This concert features each orchestra alone, and ends with every Northfield Public Schools orchestra student (grades 4-12) performing a piece all together!

7th Grade Orchestra students are preparing:

Gauntlet***

Ghostbusters***

1812 Overture (combined orchestra piece for EVERY district orchestra student)

*****COMING SOON!!!** Please encourage your student to listen to and practice with the practice recordings that are in Schoology!

Arrival times for students are earlier than for other concerts so that all students have an opportunity to rehearse the combined piece before the performance. These rehearsals begin around 5:00 pm, followed by a 7:00 pm concert. A detailed schedule will be announced closer to the concert.

Common Question: What should I do if I miss orchestra class?

Students should refer to Schoology to determine what was missed during orchestra class. At the top of the Orchestra Schoology page, students can find “Orchestra Class Highlights”. These slides show what was worked on during class on any day. These are helpful to view, as the majority of markings we make in our music are included in these slides. By viewing these slides for days missed, students can keep up with the note taking aspects of class and practice what was missed while absent. There is also a section on the slide that lists current orchestra assignments.

Common Question: Why doesn't my instrument stay in tune?

Minnesota weather varies drastically throughout the year. While this is not a typical winter, it is good to know the guidelines for string instrument care. Dry weather in the winter can cause instruments to crack, become unglued and make tuning difficult (due to slipping pegs). String instruments should be kept indoors, except of course when transporting the instrument or waiting at the bus stop. Extended time spent in a garage, cold car or outside can damage a wood instrument. Keeping the instrument away from direct heat sources, such as space heaters or fire places, is also a good idea.

Chamber Orchestra: This information only pertains to students in Chamber Orchestra

Chamber Orchestra students are working on new pieces in preparation for a performance in May. I also schedule optional after school sectionals for each instrument part. While not required, they provide additional practice and more detailed instruction on the more difficult passages in the music. Please mark these dates on your calendar, and encourage your student to attend if they are able:

1st Violins	Thursday, February 22	3:00-3:30 pm
2nd Violins	Tuesday, February 13	3:00-3:30 pm
Violas	Wednesday, March 6	3:00-3:30 pm
Cello	Monday, February 12	3:00-3:30 pm
Bass	Monday, February 26	3:00-3:30 pm

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking a few moments to read this orchestra update. I will be in touch with more orchestra information at the beginning of March.

Heather Olivier

holivier@northfieldschools.org