

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

Good afternoon 6th Grade Orchestra Families!

Monday, November 4, 2024

I hope you had an enjoyable long weekend! This fall is really flying by! This newsletter serves as an update on all things orchestra related.

### **What have we been working on in class?**

All 6th Grade students have received our new orchestra book: String Basics, Book 2. This week, we will begin using this book for skill building in orchestra class and lessons.

### **Orchestra Lessons**

Students will receive their 2nd Quarter lesson schedules this week during their lesson time. We will spend a day in class recording them in our planners and setting up reminders using Google Calendar.

As a reminder, if a student misses a lesson, it is not a problem. There are make-up opportunities available! Please encourage your student to contact me right away if a lesson was missed. It is best to make-up a lesson sooner rather than later.

### **Practice Expectations**

Practicing at home is the most important thing a student can do to be successful and a contributing member of the orchestra. If practicing at home is challenging, students can also use practice rooms in the music area during study halls and before or after school. Practicing is the majority of the homework for orchestra students. The minimum practice goal for 6th grade is 4 times per week, 10 minutes each time. Once a student starts playing, this 10 minute goal is usually quite easy to attain. Students received a new practice sheet last week.

This is a link to a good article about helping your music student with the basics of practicing: [“How to Give Ownership of Practicing a Musical Instrument To Your Child”](#) by Tony Mazzocchi

### **NMS Music T-shirts and Concert Dress**

Orchestra students will receive their NMS Music T-shirt later this week (if one was ordered). When receiving their new shirt, I will make sure that it fits and will write each student's initials on the shirt tag. With hundreds of NMS Music shirts being passed out this week, we want to make sure that your student's shirt is not misplaced before getting home!

As a reminder, orchestra students will wear this Music T-shirt for all performances. Shirts will be worn tucked-in to either black pants or a black skirt. For students choosing to wear a skirt, the skirt must cover the student's knees when sitting. Black yoga pants or leggings are only appropriate as concert attire if a skirt is worn over them. Shoes for performances are black with a closed toe. These details can also be found in the Orchestra Syllabus.

## **Concert Information**

Our first orchestra concert is on Monday, December 16! This will be an exciting evening with lots of music! There are 2 performance times on that night. Each orchestra is assigned a time to perform (see below). Students are expected to arrive 30 minutes prior to the concert time and stay throughout their concert time. Students will watch 1-2 other orchestras perform.

### **Monday, December 16, 2024**                      **MS & HS Orchestra Concerts**                      **NMS Auditorium**

NMS and NHS Orchestra students will perform at two different concert times, based on their grade level or orchestra. NMS students are only required to attend the concert in which they perform.

Donations for the Northfield Food Shelf are collected prior to these concerts.

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade, 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade & HS Philharmonia Orchestras	6:00 pm Concert	5:30 pm Arrival
MS Chamber, 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade, HS Symphony & Camerata Orchestras	7:30 pm Concert	7:00 pm Arrival

Concert dates were announced in September as part of the Orchestra Syllabus and Return Form assignment. All orchestra dates are listed in the [Orchestra Syllabus](#) that is in Schoology.

## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for taking the time to read through this Orchestra update.

I am enjoying working with these students in the orchestra program! I look forward to sharing our dedicated musical work with you on December 16!

The next orchestra update will be sent closer to the concert. This will include more detailed information about the performance.

Take care,

Heather Olivier

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