

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

Good afternoon 8th Grade Orchestra Families!

Monday, November 4, 2024

I hope you had an enjoyable long weekend! This fall is really flying by!

For 8th grade students, there is a LOT of information this month - thank you for reading through this entire update!

What have we been working on in class?

8th Grade orchestra students are continuing to work on playing in different positions, shifting and vibrato. These big string concepts will be the theme for the entire year for 8th grade students.

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 8th grade is 4 times per week, 20 minutes each time. Once a student starts playing, this 20 minute goal is usually quite easy to attain.

8th Grade Orchestra students do not utilize practice sheets this year. Instead, students are assigned specific measures or exercises to work on at home. Students show their preparation and mastery by completing frequent videos/recordings each quarter. To find success, a student should be practicing the assigned line on multiple days BEFORE recording for the assignment.

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

Veterans Day Program Information: Monday, November 11, 2024

The NMS Music Department and NMS Administration are preparing our Veterans Day Program to be held during the school day. This is the 3rd year for this program at NMS. The 8th Grade Orchestra, 8th Grade Band and 7th & 8th Grade Choir are the musical groups involved in this program. Performers need to wear their Concert Dress to school on that day.

Families of performers, community members and area veterans are invited to attend this program. Seating will begin at 2:00 pm with a program beginning at 2:10 pm.

If you are unable to attend, Northfieldlive.com will have a live stream available to view.

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 th Grade, 7 th Grade & HS Philharmonia Orchestras	6:00 pm Concert	5:30 pm Arrival
MS Chamber, 8 th 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.

8th Grade Orchestra Festival Date

Each year, the 8th Grade Orchestra participates in an orchestra festival field trip. In September, I did not know the date of the festival. Please record Wednesday, March 12 as our field trip date! This festival takes place during the school day - occasionally we arrive back at school a little later than the end of the day. The timing of the festival will be announced after Winter Break.

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 Veterans Day and our concert on December 16!

The next orchestra update (December) will provide more details regarding the concert.

Take care,

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