

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

Good afternoon Level 1 Strings 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?

The Level 1 Strings class uses *String Basics Book 1* during each class. At the beginning of the year, I set a goal of completing page 17 by the end of Quarter 1. Last week, we finished page 20!!! Well done students!

Our goal for the end of Quarter 2 is Page 40 - the entire lesson book. While this is a HUGE goal, it will give us something big to keep working towards.

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 Level 1 Strings students is 4 times per week, 10 minutes each time. Once a student starts playing, this 10 minute goal is usually quite easy to attain.

In a couple of weeks, students will begin documenting their practice in journal form. Level 1 Students will also continue to show their understanding and mastery on their instrument by completing more playing assessments during Quarter 2. To find success, a student should be practicing the assigned line on multiple days BEFORE recording for the assignment. Please continue to check-in with your student to hear them play their assigned lines at home.

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. Level 1 Strings students will perform in their first concert during Quarter 3, and will attend their first concert in Quarter 2. This concert dress will be worn for both of these dates.

Concert Information

Level 1 Strings students will attend a NMS orchestra concert on Monday, December 16! While these students will not perform, each Level 1 Strings student will have an active role. These assignments will be discussed in class in a couple of weeks. There are 2 performance times on that night - each student will be required to attend **ONE** of the concert times. Students are expected to arrive 30 minutes prior to the concert time and stay throughout their concert time. Students will watch 2-3 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.

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 an exciting 2nd Quarter!

The next orchestra update will be sent closer to the evening concert in December. This will include more detailed information about the expectations for students in Level 1 Strings.

Take care,

Heather Olivier

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