

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

Good morning 6th Grade Orchestra Families!

Friday, May 3, 2024

Northfield Middle School orchestra students have quickly moved onto new skills and pieces since our All-District Orchestra Concert in March. Each group (6th Grade, 7th Grade, 8th Grade and Chamber Orchestra) is working on exciting pieces that are pushing each grade in their individual and group playing. This Orchestra Update will provide you with a few events and assignments that are happening right now in orchestra class.

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

All 6th Grade students are working on building skills in String Basics, Book 2. We just began working on Dotted Quarter Notes. We will be working on this rhythm for the next couple of weeks.

6th Grade Orchestra students are currently working on two orchestral pieces: G Street Rock and Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?. These pieces are very different from each other, which allows us to work on a variety of styles. 6th Grade students are also exploring the musical skill of improvisation!

### **Upcoming Concert Information: Tuesday, May 28**

The next NMS Orchestra performance will feature only Middle School Orchestra groups on May 28, 2024 at Northfield MIDDLE SCHOOL. This concert begins at 7:00 pm.

Students need to arrive by 6:30 pm. Students in Chamber Orchestra need to arrive by 6:00 pm.

More information will be sent home closer to the concert.

### **Practice Bingo 10: Due May 9 (Maroon students) or May 8 (Gold students)**

Students are currently working on a shortened practice sheet for class. Our practice sheets for orchestra are more than a calendar. More importantly, it includes a list of practice activities. These activities are designed to help students know what to practice in order to be prepared for orchestra class and lessons. Please take a look at your student's practice sheet in their orchestra binder, review your student's practice and sign before the due date next week.

Thank you for taking the time to do this!

### **Orchestra Lessons: Make-up Lessons on Tuesday, May 7 & Wednesday, May 8**

Any student that is missing a 4th Quarter orchestra lesson is assigned a make-up lesson time on May 7 or 8. This schedule will be shared with students on May 3 in Schoology. If you are unsure if your student is missing an orchestra lesson, please check Skyward. There will be one more opportunity for make-up lessons at the end of Quarter 4.

### **Instrument Size Changes**

In April and May, I check each student to see if it is time for a larger instrument size. If I feel that your orchestra player should move up a size, I will email home with these details. This process is lengthy because there are many students needing to be checked, and I want to give each student the necessary time for a thoughtful trial. Thank you for your patience during this time.

## **Summer Orchestra Opportunities**

### **Summer Lessons:**

Northfield Public Schools will not be offering summer orchestra lessons this year. If you are interested in finding a private teacher for your student for the summer months, please let me know and I can provide you with some options.

### **Orchestra Sessions:**

If your student is interested in a group orchestra experience over the summer, CVYO (Cannon Valley Youth Orchestra) is a local option. Information can be found here: [CVYO Summer 2024](#)

Online registrations are due June 1.

CVYO is also offering financial scholarships: applications are due May 15.

## **NMS Solo & Ensemble Festival: Update**

The NMS Solo & Ensemble Festival was an optional event for students in April. We had a large number of orchestra students participate this year - maybe a record for this event! Congratulations to all of our participants!

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

Chamber Orchestra students have been working very hard at our weekly Friday rehearsals. To help us be prepared for the May 28 concert, an additional rehearsal has been scheduled (there isn't school on Friday, May 24). While I realize that not all students will be able to attend, this practice will be very helpful for those that are available. Students completed a Google Form earlier this week, sharing any after school conflicts.

Below is a list of all end of the year events for students in Chamber Orchestra.

### **Final Chamber Orchestra Rehearsals:**

| Regularly Scheduled<br>Friday Rehearsals<br>(3:00-3:45 pm) | ADDITIONAL Rehearsal<br>Please attend if you can!<br>(3:00-3:45 pm) | Chamber Orchestra<br>Celebration |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| May 3<br>May 10<br>May 17                                  | Thursday, May 23  | Friday, May 31<br>3:00-4:30 pm   |

**Note:** The last Chamber Orchestra is on Friday, May 31

**Note:** Students in Chamber Orchestra need to arrive at 6:00 pm for the May 28 Concert.

## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for supporting your orchestra student. We are having a great year, filled with lots of learning and fun! I will send home another Orchestra Update closer to our May concert.