

5th Grade Orchestra Handbook: 2018-19

Welcome 5th Grade Orchestra Students and Parents!

Orchestra is a safe place for students to feel a part of a group, to gain confidence, and to make lasting friendships.

Our orchestra program creates a sense of family and promotes a friendly, fun environment for our children.

We learn and perform, striving for excellence, together as a team.

What happens in Orchestra Class?

In elementary school, orchestra students learn basic technique and music literacy skills in order to perform to the best of their ability, both individually and within an orchestral setting. The skills each student acquires prepares them to participate and contribute in future ensembles, as well as develop an appreciation for music and the arts.

Classroom Expectations

Work hard. Be kind. Help others. ☺

Parent/Teacher Communication

1. Please update Skyward Family Access with your most current email. I communicate primarily, **and often**, via email.
2. Be sure that you add my email rfeuerborn@d41.org into your contacts; check "spam" folder if you have not received my emails.
3. My newsletter, "Orchestra E-Notes," as well as student progress, will be emailed to you. Please email me anytime.

Lessons/ Rehearsals / Performances

1. Orchestra is a year-long class: September through end of May.
2. Attendance is expected during weekly lessons, the rehearsals before each of the concerts, and the winter and spring concerts.
3. Please help your child remember their weekly lesson day/ time AND their instrument/ music. Orchestra group lessons meet once a week during the PE/Music block. If you forget your instrument, come to your lesson anyway. ☺
4. Participation in all performances/evening rehearsals is required of every student enrolled in a music performance class. We work together as a team for success. Everyone is important. Performance is an important part of each students' musical education. Students learn how to collaborate and work together to create a finished product that is wonderful. It is a chance for them to show what they have learned in class, and provides an opportunity for the students to demonstrate musical growth and talent. If an emergency occurs on the day of performance, please email your teacher.
5. During evening rehearsals and concerts, bring your instruments, folding music stand (labeled), and music. Bass students, please also bring your bass stool.

Concert Dress:

All 5th Grade students wear the D41 Orchestra T-Shirt (black) & BLACK bottoms - dress pants/ shoes/ socks.

Orchestra Calendar

Please add the orchestra calendar dates to your personal family calendar. Please note locations of evening rehearsals & concerts.

Instruments

1. Attach a ribbon or some special identifier to the outside of your case so you know which instrument is yours!
2. Basses are available at school for class use. Bring your orchestra music to each lesson. Please visit the www.d41orchestra.org website for information regarding the Bass Scholarship Program for 1st year students (the pdf can be found under the registration tab). Bass students need to bring instruments from home for periodic tuning and checking-over, as needed.
3. Violins, violas, and cellos, including supplies and music, will need to be at school each orchestra lesson day.

Progress & Practicing

1. Practicing:
 - Practice a minimum of 3 times weekly for 15 minutes per practice session.
 - Practice on the days you (parent and child) have determined will work with your family's schedule.
2. Students' progress will be assessed weekly during lessons. The mechanics of playing (technique) and music literacy (note & rhythm reading) are district targets for elementary orchestra students.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are strongly encouraged for success and fun! See the "resources" tab at www.d41orchestra.org for a list of teachers.

Kagan & Gaines – Instrument Rental Company

Please purchase/rent all needed music supplies through District 41's orchestra rental supplier, Kagan & Gaines.

Phone: 708-771-2152 Email: info@kaganandgaines.com Website: www.kaganandgaines.com

Please make every effort to purchase the “**recommended**” brand for music supplies. They are recommended because I have found them to be the “**best buy**” and **work best for almost all instruments and students.**

Supplies

- ✓ Supplies to purchase:
- ✓ **Clip-on Tuner: Fishman FT-2**
- ✓ **Folding music stand:** needed for home practice, evening rehearsals, and concerts.
- ✓ **Strings' wiping cloth:** Suggestion...purchase a thin baby washcloth, or cut-out a square from an old cotton t-shirt.
- ✓ **Bass students only:** 24-28" wooden or adjustable bar stool, with foot rungs (i.e., can be purchased at Menards, Target @\$16). Bassists will learn sitting posture during group lessons for best stability to prevent the instrument from falling, especially during the first year of study. Used for practicing at home, evening rehearsals, and concerts - we will discuss more during class.
- **Provided with Rental Instrument/ Bow:**
 - ✓ Working and playable. Rent through Kagan & Gaines. They have a "Rent with option to buy" program.
 - ✓ Name tag - must be attached on the outside of case.
 - ✓ Rosin; Foam shoulder rest, with rubber band (violin/viola); Rock stop (cello/bass).

Repairs & String Replacement on Rented Instruments

1. When you rent an instrument, Kagan & Gaines provides good, used strings for 1st year rentals only, if the string breaks.
2. **IMPORTANT:** Your orchestra teacher can replace broken or frayed strings. Please have your child bring their instrument and replacement string to school on their lesson day. Email your child's orchestra teacher with any other repair issues immediately to determine if it is a repair she can do. Please do not attempt repairs yourself.

Bow Re-hairs

1. Bows should be re-haired with real horse hair every 1-1 ½ years, depending on use and care. If the hair at the frog has blackened, or more than 25% of the hair has fallen off, it needs a re-hair ASAP. Kagan & Gaines will replace the rented bows when recommend by your teacher. If you own your instrument, there is a re-hair charge. Kagan & Gaines will provide a loaner bow, if available. If a different music shop does not provide loaner bows, you should keep an additional inexpensive carbon fiber bow in your case for these situations. Again, know all music shops' policies.

Instrument Renting/ Sizing/ Purchasing

1. Please RENT the appropriate size instrument for your child. Your child needs the correct size for a successful learning experience. Finding the best fit for your child's needs, both in size and musically, is important for their success. Music shops/ violin shops provide smaller, appropriately sized stringed instruments for **RENT**. This is highly recommended. (Just to clarify, violin shops provide ALL stringed instruments, not just violins.)
2. When in junior or high school, if you purchase a full-sized instruments, shops will allow parents to bring instruments home to try-out for a few days. You are encouraged to seek advice from professional teachers/musicians prior to purchasing. It is highly recommended to purchase a quality instrument – your child's ability to produce a nice sound out of the instrument has a huge impact on how much they enjoy & continue playing.
3. Having a quality bow is also very important because the bow is what produces the sound. Think of your child also as a “bowist,” not only a “violinist-violist-cello-or-bassist.” Check out online resources and forums for assessing quality stringed instruments for rent and for purchase. Investing in your child's success on their instrument begins with being an educated investor and consumer from day one.
4. **DO NOT PURCHASE AN INSTRUMENT BEFORE YOUR TEACHER CAN TRY IT OUT . DO NOT PURCHASE INSTRUMENTS ONLINE.**

Additional recommended supplies & upgrades during Spring of 5th or Fall of 6th grade:

- Shoulder Rest/Bag:
 - ✓ Violin or Viola EC4 Everest Shoulder Rest (only for ¾, 4/4 violin sizes and 13"-14" viola sizes) (highly recommended for good posture and stability when learning instrument technique).
 - ✓ Violin or Viola Protec A223 Shoulder Rest Bag (IF shoulder rest does not fit in case, this bag clips onto case.)

Thank you for your support of the orchestra students and program in Glen Ellyn!
ORCHESTRA KIDS ROCK!!!

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