**4th Grade Orchestra Orientation**

**Tuesday, June 20th, 2023 • 6:30 PM • IMS Commons**

**Sarah Hart, 5th & IMS Director • sarah.hart@mercerislandschools.org**

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Logo

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1) Instrument rentals

- Rent, don't buy!

\*Purchased online or "found in the attic" instruments could be low quality

\*Luthier setup necessary from factory

\*Sizing will change; later sale of student instruments difficult

\*Repairs/insurance?

\*Shops provide rental accrual toward eventual purchase

- How to choose a shop/what to expect

\*Luthier on staff

\*New strings and bow hair, clean instrument

\*Full luthier setup from factory

\*Repairs/insurance

- VV portable on buses

\*Storage at elementary schools

- CB not portable on buses

\*Home instrument versus school instrument

\*Financial need? Email me privately - we will try our best to work with you!

- Sizing

- Chinrests for VV

\* Two types - I prefer the kind that DOES NOT go across the tailpiece

3) Supplies needed for class

- Instrument with bow and sturdy case

- VV: shoulder rest (I recommend the Kun brand - make sure you get the right size for your instrument!)

- CB: rockstop (strap kind or "donut" kind, either works fine)

- Rosin (should be included in rental; any kind fine for VVC; Kolstein brand best for B)

- Small instrument cleaning cloth

- 1" hardcover binder with clear cover and pockets inside (take one!)

- 2 pencils (no pens!)

- Tote bag (not in backpack please)

- Book: Essential Elements Book 1 - make sure you get the right one for your instrument!

- Orchestra t-shirt

- Luggage tags (one for tote, one for instrument)

- Fingernails need to be SHORT!

- Music stand, metronome (or app), clip-on tuner (or app) for home practice (recommended but not required - leave these at home)

- Check out our booster merch table tonight!

4) Label everything!!!

- Sharpies/luggage tags: First and last name, elementary school, phone number, ORCHESTRA

5) Shops in the area - Google them!

- Hammond Ashley (Issaquah)

- Bischofberger Violins (Seattle)

- Music & Arts (various)

- Kennelly Keys (various)

- MIOB website at miorchestra.org - some supplies available here

- Check Amazon for things like method books, rosin, shoulder rests

6) Schedule for morning rehearsals beginning Monday, 10/2/23:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **IMS 502 -**  **8:15-9:00 AM** | All Vln/Vla;  Advanced | All Cel/Bs | Targeted Instruments | All students last name A-K; Advanced | All students last name L-Z |
| **Rooms** | 502, 501, & storage | 502 & storage | 502 | 502 & storage | 502 & storage |

7) Transportation

- Check the MISD transportation website at https://www.mercerislandschools.org/Page/104

- Take the IMS bus and come straight to 502. We will meet the buses out front the first week and walk the kids to the room.

- After all rehearsals we line kids up and escort them onto their bus back to their elementary school.

- Note: Transportation is tricky. The bus drivers are great and work really hard, but are sometimes late bringing them to rehearsal. If there is any way you can bring your child to orchestra, this is extremely helpful to maximize instruction time.

8) 1st and 2nd lesson nights - parents and students all come to these WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT!

**Monday, 9/18/23 and Tuesday, 9/26/23 at IMS music wing**

**4:30-5:15 B; 5:30-6:15 C; 6:30-7:30 VV**

- Bring all instruments for finger tapes

- Bring shoulder rests for adjustment (VV)

- Bring books and binders so we can label them

- Leave other supplies at home please!

9) Overview of program

- Performances/opportunities increase each year

- Vertically aligned curriculum from year to year

- Building of technique/skills (via method books, scales, FPs, etudes) toward repertoire

- Enrichment in later MS and HS (All-State, YSOs, S&E, festivals)

- Field trips starting in 7th grade

- Travel cycle in HS

- Coaching and instrument specialization emphasis unique to MISD

- 1st year learning priorities:

\* #1: Posture/position

\* #2: Note-reading

\* #3: Confidence in ensemble playing

10) Performances/Concert Events for 2023-24\* - **Mark your calendars now please!!!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 12/15/23 | "Deck the Halls" Breakfast before school (5th advanced only) |
| 1/23/24 | LR and WM School Assemblies during school day |
| 1/25/24 | NW and IP School Assemblies during school day |
| 2/13/24 | All District Orchestra Concert |
| 3/3/24 | Spring Orchestra Fundraiser  (5th graders invited as audience members; 5th advanced will perform) |
| 4/2/24 | Showcase (5th advanced only) |
| 6/5/24 | 5th and IMS Spring Concert |

*\*5th advanced may have 1-2 additional performances - stay tuned!*

11) Volunteerism/fundraising

- MIOB website - miorchestra.org

- Sharon Singh & Dorit Lessard, MIOB Co-Presidents - miorchestraboosters@gmail.com

- Celeste Patereau & Joel Bruck, IMS Reps for MIOB - celestepatereau@yahoo.com; joelbruck@gmail.com

12) Instrumentation (50/20/20/10)

- Numbers and instrumentation looking great this year!

- Advanced - This is for kids who have played for a few years, take private lessons, and read music fluently.

\* If you believe your child is eligible for this group, please send a video of them playing to Lillian so that she can confirm your placement.

**We are going to have an awesome year learning and making music together!**