

Orchestra Handbook



Community Unit School District 200

2016-2017

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Parent and Student Registration Information

Please fill out the information form online, or fill out this form completely and return to the music company representative or the front desk tonight!

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Band or Orchestra: _____

Instrument: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

Guardian 1: _____

Guardian 2: _____

Email: (Please print carefully) _____

Second Email: _____



September 2016

Dear Parent,

Thank you VERY MUCH for giving your child the wonderful opportunity of learning music at the elementary level! District 200 provides each child with a solid musical education which creates a great foundation for learning other subjects each and every day during school. There is a one-time music fee of \$80.00 in addition to the instrument rental. If a student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, this fee is reduced.

Please pay your \$80.00 fee through the **ParentVUE** link on your school website by **September 26th**

Pay online using your credit card

- On the left column click on the **Student Fees** tab
- Click on the **Pay Student Fees** link
- **Select your 5th grade student**
- Scroll down to the section **Yearbook / Drivers Ed / TCD**
- Use the drop down and choose **BAND FEE OR ORCHESTRA FEE**
- Select **ADD FEE**
- Click **UPDATE**
- Follow payment procedure.

If you choose to pay by check or cash, please submit your payment to your school secretary by **October 3rd**.

Thank You!

The District 200 Music Faculty

“Music is the Universal Language of Mankind.”
~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

OVERVIEW OF ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

- Each beginning orchestra member will be excused from regular classes once a week for 30 minutes to receive a small group lesson. Attendance at all regular lessons is required. Students are responsible for making up any missed classroom assignments. The orchestra teacher makes every effort to work with the classroom teacher in determining the best time for each student to miss class.
- Each beginning orchestra member will also participate in a regularly scheduled large group rehearsal for the building that he or she attends. Scheduling of this rehearsal varies according to the needs of the building facility and the teacher's schedule.
- Elementary instrumental music students are only able to access instrumental instruction for a half hour a week during school instruction hours.
- Private lessons are recommended, but not required. If you are interested, a list of recommended private instructors can be sent home with your child.
- In middle school and high school, orchestra meets as a regular class period. After investing one year in developing basic skills, it is hoped that the beginning orchestra student will continue throughout the District 200 Orchestra Program.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Establish daily practice habits.
- Always be on time to lessons, rehearsals and performances.
- Always be prepared by having your instrument, music and other materials as instructed by your director.
- Always make up your missed classroom assignments.
- Promptly deliver letters to your parents.
- Keep your instrument clean and in good playing condition.
- Participate in all scheduled concerts.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Parents play a crucial role in helping their child succeed in the orchestra program. The following guidelines will help contribute to your child's success:

- Help your child establish good practice habits.
- Provide a quiet area for daily practice sessions. Beginners need not practice for extended periods of time; rather short, meaningful practice sessions are most beneficial.
- Contact your child's director if you have any questions or concerns.
- See that your child is present and on time for all rehearsals and concerts.
- Attend all concerts and other performances.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be sent home with student report cards two times a year. These reports recommend areas for improvement. Please feel free to contact your child's orchestra instructor at any time concerning any questions. Email is the easiest way for the teacher to respond in a timely manner.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Your child will participate in two or three performances his/her first year. Your child's director will notify you of individual school performances. North Side and South Side elementary, middle school, and high school string students in District 200 participate in the String Festival to be held late fall or early winter. Please watch for flyers from your school. It was necessary to split this Festival due to the increased enrollment in the orchestra program. This is a great opportunity to hear students from all levels of the District 200 Orchestra Program!

CONCERT ATTIRE

The official outfit for beginning orchestra concerts is as follows:

- Black or dark blue pants or skirt
- Solid white shirt or blouse
- Dark shoes

Some informal concerts may have more relaxed uniform requirements. Information is given before each concert.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORCHESTRA STUDENTS

Orchestra activities include informal performances at school, solo-ensemble contest, festival performances, tours in the district and out of town, performances for conventions, as well as many social activities.

CARE OF THE INSTRUMENT AND BOW

- Never try to repair the instrument at home. If something breaks, leave a message for the director at your child's school, and she will take care of it.
- Keep the instrument away from extreme heat and cold. Do not leave the instrument in a parked car in extreme temperatures. The wood cracks easily.
- Only the student should be allowed to touch the instrument. The instrument should never be taken out on the school bus or on the playground.
- Keep the instrument and bow in the case when it is not in use.
- Never touch the bow hair – it is made of horsehair and is sensitive to oil from the skin.

MATERIALS NEEDED

All Orchestra students will need the following:

- An instrument of the proper size for your child, in good playing condition. It should come with a bow that is also in good playing condition
- A name tag on the instrument case (provided by most rental companies)
- A music stand for home practice and large festival concerts
- A cake of rosin for your instrument (This should be provided with rental instruments)
- Violin and viola players will need a shoulder pad; cello and bass players an endpin anchor cello trap for cello players.
- A soft cloth for wiping rosin off the strings and instrument
- A pencil to be stored in the instrument case
- Sound Innovations Book 1** for your instrument for beginning orchestra students
- Concert Tunes for Beginning Strings** by Dale Brubaker
- Second year students may need to purchase a lesson book; check with your orchestra instructor

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- District 200 charges an \$80 participation fee for Elementary Orchestra. You may pay this fee online by September 26th. Please see page 2 for payment instructions. Students on Exempt or Reduced Waivers have fees adjusted.
- There is no fee for Middle School or High School Orchestra participation.
- All beginning students need to purchase **Sound Innovations Book 1** for their instrument. It comes with a CD and DVD to be used for home practice.
- All beginning students need to purchase **Concert Tunes for Beginning Strings** by Dale Brubaker.
- All students need a music stand to use at home and at concerts. A folding music stand costs approx. \$15.00.
- Violin and viola students need to purchase a shoulder rest to use with their rented instrument. Cello and bass students need a slipstop cello strap for cello players to keep end pins from sliding on floors. Each is available for between \$5.00 and \$13.00.
- Parents may choose to purchase materials from any music vendor.
- Materials are available from Quinlan and Fabish (630-654-4111) and can be delivered directly to the school.
- Families who need financial help should contact their orchestra director to discuss available options.

CHOOSING AN INSTRUMENT RENTAL VENDOR

District 200 has selected Quinlan and Fabish as the district preferred instrument vendor. Through a formal evaluation process, this endorsement was granted because Quinlan and Fabish has met the following criteria:

- All rental stringed instruments meet the teacher's standards
- All rentals are provided with a new cake of rosin
- All rental instruments are delivered to each school
- Instrument switches are easily done through the teacher and the representative- parents do not have to drive to take care of repairs or exchanging instruments
- A trained company representative visits each school weekly to provide personalized service
- Loaner instruments (during repairs) are provided at no charge
- The Maintenance and Replacement Program is included in the rental fee
- A large, fully staffed repair facility provides professional quality service
- When families are ready to purchase an instrument, step-up instruments and special payment plans are available
- Broken strings are replaced free of charge

Note: Parents are free to choose any musical instrument supplier they prefer.

District 200 Orchestra Staff and Contact Information
2016-2017

Wheaton Warrenville South High School
Joanne Wegscheid: Joanne.Wegscheid@cusd200.org

Wheaton North High School
Grace Mayell: Grace.Mayell@cusd200.org

Edison Middle School
Joanne Wegscheid: Joanne.Wegscheid@cusd200.org
Lisa Volle: Lisa.Volle@cusd200.org

Franklin Middle School
Carrie Provost: Carrie.Provost@cusd200.org

Hubble Middle School
Debbie Schmaltz: Deborah.Schmaltz@cusd200.org

Monroe Middle School and Emerson Elementary
Kelsey Voydanoff: Kelsey.Voydanoff@cusd200.org

Bower, Johnson, Wiesbrook Elementary
Lisa Volle: Lisa.Volle@cusd200.org

Hawthorne, Longfellow, Lowell, Pleasant Hill, Sandburg and Washington Elementary
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Lincoln, Madison, and Whittier
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