

Marshfield Public Schools Elementary Orchestra Program Information 2020-2021

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More Info on the Instruments: visit this website to learn about the instruments in the string family. <u>https://www.bepartofthemusic.org/bpoto/index.html</u>

Getting an Instrument/Supplies

All students need New Directions for Strings, Book 1 for their particular instrument. This is available from the music store when you rent or purchase an instrument. It's also a good idea to purchase a music stand for home practice. In addition, students will need:

Violins and Violas: A shoulder rest to help comfortably hold the instrument in place. Your instrument should come with a foam/sponge style shoulder rest, but you may want to purchase a step-up shoulder rest depending on your comfort and hold.

Cellos and Basses: An end pin holder, or "rock-stop" should be owned by each low- string musician. This helps keep the instrument from scooting across the floor.

Ways to obtain an instrument: Orchestra instruction begins the first full week of school in September. Arrangements to get an instrument must be made by this time. Here are a few options:

- Rent from a music store. Heid Music in Stevens Point or Northern Music here in Marshfield have family-friendly rental plans for all instruments.
- Fix up an instrument from a family member (please have professional cleaning and inspection done before using a used instrument).
- Contact us if your situation makes the above choices challenging.

Renting: Most of our students rent an instrument through Heid Music in Stevens Point or Northern Music Store right here in Marshfield, located behind Culver's. More information about both stores can be found on the last page of this document. If you rent from Heid or Northern Music, they will deliver your instrument to school before your first lesson. It is important that students do not "experiment" with their instruments before they have instruction on how to use it properly, so regardless of where you rent or buy your instrument, please do not explore it until you have your first lesson.

Practicing

The key to a successful musical experience hinges on regular, consistent practice. Without practice there is no development of muscle, coordination, endurance, rhythm, intonation or tone. There will always be ups and downs in a student's mood and attitude towards practicing, but it cannot stop. Parents play a big role in encouraging practice, but students need to have personal commitment as well.

Practice at Home: A recommended minimum of 60 minutes per week of practice is **necessary** if your child is to have a successful experience in orchestra. This time should be on a regular basis and range from 5-10 minutes in the beginning to 15-20 minutes per session later on. They must have an area free from distractions, and to ensure proper posture a music stand is a must.

Practice Calendars: Practice calendars are used to record student practice time. Students can turn in their practice calendar (with parent signature) at the end of each month to earn string bucks!

Lessons and Monday Rehearsals

Lessons: During the school year every student receives a weekly lesson at their school. Lessons are 20-25 minutes in length. Because students are pulled from class for their lessons, students are responsible for any missed work. If this is an issue for a certain class, we can attempt to accommodate those needs and adjust the lesson schedule.

Rehearsals: Full group rehearsals for all orchestra students are held on Monday afternoons in the High School Orchestra Room beginning October 26th for 6th grade (4:05-4:50) and December 7th for 5th grade (3:15-4:00). These rehearsals are very important to your child's musical development within a musical group. It is here that we learn the true nature of the "team" philosophy, and where new friends are often made. **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!**

Getting to Monday Night Rehearsal: Students may simply ride the bus on Monday afternoon from their school to the High School. Once there, students should proceed directly to the High School Orchestra room. You will still need to arrange to pick your child up at the end of rehearsal.

Important Dates for 2020-2021

- September 2020: School begins, lessons start at each elementary school
- October 26, 2020: 6th grade string rehearsals begin at the High School 4:05-4:50.
- December 7, 2020: 5th grade string rehearsals begin at High School 3:15-4:00.
- January 26, 2021: Winter Elementary Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium
- March 14, 2021: District Wide Strings Concert 4:00p.m. MHS Gymnasium
- May 4, 2021: Spring Elementary Orchestra Concert 7:00pm MHS Auditorium

Ready to sign up? All you need to do is fill out this form!

https://forms.gle/mhgEc2qywxX3tHas5

Please contact us with any questions. We are looking forward to working with you next year!

Rental Information

HEIDSMUSIC

Click here for more information or to begin renting: https://www.heidmusic.com/rental/find-your-school/ or call 715-423-1000.

Northern Music Service

Click here to begin renting

http://www.rentfromhome.com/affiliates/code/northernservice

Music stand and book can be purchased by calling Northern Music Service at 715-384-4347.

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