

Welcome to 4th Grade Beginning Orchestra!

Dear 4th Grade Families,

Welcome to the 4th Grade Beginning Orchestra Program! Thank you for allowing your child to participate in learning a string instrument. I look forward to getting to know you and your child as we start our musical journey this year.

Below is your child's lesson day for orchestra each week (by instrument). Students are assigned to a group based on their instrument and classroom teacher. Scan the QR codes below with a smart device or your child's iPad to view. *Note: Group assignments might change throughout the year.*



Lesson Calendar



Lesson Groups

Lesson Days

Wednesdays: Violins and Violas

Fridays: Cellos and Basses

Example: If you play viola, then you will need to bring your instrument **EVERY Wednesday** for the whole year. Students will also need to bring their instruments to school for early orchestra on **Thursdays**. *Note: Basses may use school instruments on both their lesson day and early orchestra day.*

What should I bring to my lesson?

- Instrument (with shoulder rest for violins and violas)
- Music book
- Pencil and iPad

Please arrive 5 minutes before your lesson starts to unpack in the hallway. Use your iPad to set alerts to remind you of your time and check at the start of the day. We only get to meet once per week, so our time is important!

Jonathan Boyer, Orchestra Director

jboyer@d23.org 847-870-5269 <http://macarthurorchestras.weebly.com/>

SULLIVAN Orchestra Events 2019-2020

Please mark your calendars with the dates below. More details will be distributed as we get closer to the date.

Date	Event	Group	Location	Time
August				
8/28/19 To 8/30/19	Instrument Tryouts by class.	4th Grade	MAC Music Rooms	All AM
September				
9/4/19 Wednesday	Orchestra Sign-up and rental night	4th Grade	MacArthur Gym	4-7PM
December				
12/18/19 Wednesday	Orchestra Concert	4th and 5th Grade	Mac. Middle Gym	7PM
March				
3/3/20 Tuesday	Orchestra Concert	4th and 5th Grade	Mac. Middle Gym	7PM
3/4/20 Wednesday	Solo and Ensemble- Small group and individual performances.	5th Grade	MacArthur Music Rooms	5-9 PM Assigned Times
May				
5/28/20 Thursday	Orchestra Concert	4th and 5th Grade	Mac. Middle Gym	Day, 7PM

Early Orchestra will start on October 1st and will continue every week unless stated by Mr. Boyer.

Tuesdays-5th Grade Early Orchestra, 7:25 AM, Mac Orchestra Room
Thursdays-4th Grade Early Orchestra, 7:25 AM, Mac Orchestra Room

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Orchestra Expectations 2018-2019

4th/5th Grade Elementary Orchestra

Lessons: Students will be given one 30 minute lesson per week in a small group (5-7 students) setting. Students are responsible for keeping track of their weekly lesson times and will try their best to show up on time and ready to play. Schedules will be provided to students, parents, and classroom teachers. Lessons are where we learn how to play our instrument and it is crucial that every student brings their instrument to school on their lesson day. **Students should bring their instrument, book/music, and ipad to each lesson.**

Communication: Parents will be updated on important events and class progress on a regular basis. Communication will be via email, handouts home, and phone calls. If you have concerns about your child's progress, please contact me and I would be happy to discuss it with you.

Practice Expectations: Practicing is one of the most important aspects of playing an instrument. Students should be practicing their instruments everyday for at least 10 minutes. Students will be provided with many different resources on practicing throughout the year (and parents will receive some too). **The only way to make progress on your instrument is by practicing at home!** Parents are expected to be involved in the practice process to ensure progress is being made.

Early Morning rehearsals: Early Morning Rehearsals will take place each week on **Tuesday (5th Grade)** and **Thursday (4th Grade)** from 7:30am-8:15am in the **MacArthur Middle School Orchestra Room**. These rehearsals are where we put our skills to the test and play with all of the other members in our orchestra. Learning how to play as part of an ensemble is a crucial skill for developing our skills on an instrument. Students should be dropped off at the middle school by **7:25a (but no earlier than 7:15a for safety reasons)** and I will walk students to the elementary at 8:15a.

Progress Reports: Students will be assessed on a regular basis via formal and informal assessments. If you would like to know the progress of your child, please contact me and I would be happy to share a progress report with you.

Thank you!
Jonathan Boyer
Orchestra Director

Jonathan Boyer, Orchestra
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Instrument Care and Maintenance

Do...

- Loosen your bow before you put it away
- Take your shoulder rest off before shutting the case (violin/viola)
- Shorten your end pin and lock it into place (cello/bass)
- Wipe off excess rosin from your strings and instrument using a soft cloth (old t-shirts work great for this!)
- Keep your instrument in a safe place
- Practice your instrument everyday

Don't...

- Let other people play your instrument
- Leave your instrument in the car
- Leave your instrument in its case over long weekends and holiday breaks. They get really scared and lonely. :(
- Tap the bow against any objects (music stands, the floor, other bows, etc...)
- Touch the hair of the bow with your fingers. We have natural oils on our hands that will deteriorate the hair.
- Use any furniture cleaner or polish on the instrument or bow. Just a soft, dry cloth will do.
- EVER try to fix the instrument at home or on your own. (*Parents too!*) Duct Tape and superglue are not always the answer.

Helpful Parent Tips

- Set aside a regular time and place (free from distractions) for daily practice
- Check in frequently with school and private teacher
- ALWAYS be positive. Not all sounds will be pleasant at first, but a little encouragement goes a long way.
- Encourage daily practice
- Attend all concerts and listen to practicing at home.

When in doubt, please contact either myself or your rental company for help or advice.

Hoffman Strings: <https://www.hoffmannstringsltd.com/>

Quinlan & Fabish: <http://www.qandf.com/>

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