

Welcome to 5th Grade Intermediate Orchestra!

Dear 5th Grade Orchestra Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! Congratulations on being 5th graders and for continuing with orchestra. You are all now **INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA** students! We have many new skills, concepts, and music to learn this year.

Although I can not guarantee that being in orchestra is easy, I can guarantee a few other things. This year you will...

- Have fun
- Learn a lot
- Improve on your instrument
- Be successful in our class



I am here to guide you along this journey, but ultimately, the progress you make is up to you! Practicing daily and asking questions in class will help you achieve your goal.

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” – Plato

I am very excited for our new journey together and I will see you all soon for our first lesson of the year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Be sure to check our orchestra website (scan the QR code) for important information, our listening library, and other details about the year.



Sincerely,
Mr. Boyer

Early Orchestra Starts: Tuesday, Oct. 1st
Lessons Start: Tuesday, Sept. 3rd

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

Jonathan Boyer, Orchestra Director

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

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
jboyer@d23.org 847-870-5269 <http://mac>



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/>

Jonathan Boyer, Orchestra Director

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