

May 23, 2022

Dear Parents,

Your child has been selected for the most wonderful opportunity. They have been invited to become a member of the Washington Elementary Orchestra. The beginning orchestra meets every Tuesday from 3:15-4:00. Each student will also receive a weekly 20-minute lesson during the school day (which is scheduled at a time convenient for their classroom teacher). No advance musical training is required. The students will start at the very beginning, learning how to hold the instruments and to read music. The Washington Elementary Orchestra will offer your child the experience of learning to play a musical instrument, learning to read music and the joy of working with and performing with a group of students. The instruction will continue into middle school and high school. It is proven that children in music score better on the SAT and ACT tests when in high school. This is an extremely important decision for you and your family because this is the only time in the child's education that beginning orchestra will be offered.

The school provides all the music lessons. However, each student will need his or her own instrument. All the music stores have a rental purchase plan. This way, you can rent the instrument to make sure that your child enjoys playing before you have to purchase the instrument. The music dealers carry the instruments that I have recommended. If you already have an instrument, please allow me to take a look at it to see if any repairs need to be made before the next school year begins. If you plan to purchase an instrument, please ask for help finding a reputable source, as I want all students to have the best start possible. *Most instruments that you find online are very poor quality. Your child will have a very hard, if not impossible time, learning to play on them.*

HOW DO I ENROLL?

There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday, May 24th at 6:00pm in the Middle School Commons. Please plan on attending this meeting for further information and to get your child sized

for their instrument. The music stores will be on hand if you'd like to reserve your instrument with them, also. Feel free to contact me if you cannot attend the meeting.

COST

Instrument rentals start at: \$26/month-violin, \$29 viola, \$50-cello, \$68-bass & \$68 harp. You can reserve these rentals through West Music or Schultz Strings. Representatives from the stores are here to service our school needs every week. The school has a few instruments to rent to families with a financial need.

SUMMER

Lessons start this summer. See attached sign-up form. These lessons are offered on a tuition basis \$40, with some scholarships for those that have a financial need.

**Summer lessons are a terrific way to get your child started because I can see them every day for two weeks and really reinforce their beginning posture and music skills. We are able to accomplish, what would take about 6-weeks during the school year. I really encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. Parents are always welcome at the summer lessons, that way you can learn how to help your child at home.

If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to call me. I look forward to many years of working with you and your child.

PLEASE FILL OUT ENCLOSED FORM AND RETURN TO SCHOOL OR BRING TO THE MEETING

Musically Yours,

Tabitha Rasmussen

trasmussen@mvcsd.org

895-8843x4132

ORCHESTRA REGISTRATION

STUDENT NAME _____

PARENT(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK/CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Circle the instrument you are interested in playing:

VIOLIN VIOLA CELLO STRING BASS

HARP (only after Parent/Teacher Conference)

_____ We have discussed the values of playing a string instrument and are ready to make a commitment to practice and work hard!

_____ I will rent an instrument from the music store. Size needed _____

_____ I have an instrument. Size _____

_____ I am interested in renting an instrument from the school.

SUMMER LESSONS WILL BE DURING THE WEEKS OF JULY 11th-JULY 22nd. Each child will receive 30-minute group lessons every weekday during those two weeks for \$40.

My child will be attending summer lessons (please circle) : yes no

Days my child won't be available during those weeks _____

Times that my child won't be available _____

Usually, I schedule these lessons between 8 & 10:30 am.

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
TABITHA RASMUSSEN & ENCLOSE With REGISTRATION**