

ORCHESTRA IS AWESOME!



Dear 4th, 5th and 6th grade Students and Parents,

This week your child will see an instrument demonstration about the orchestra program here at Lees Corner. All students in the 4th, 5th and 6th grade have the option to learn an instrument as part of the orchestra program. 5th and 6th grade students who choose to join the orchestra will participate in a one-hour lesson once a week during our specials block while 4th graders will have a 45 minute lesson in the afternoons.

Orchestra classes will begin the week of September 13th.

CHOOSING AN INSTRUMENT

There is a good chance your child already has a strong idea of what instrument they want to play in the orchestra. If your child is confident in their selection you may allow them to sign up for that instrument. As all stringed instruments come in a variety of sizes to fit the player, Mrs. Ellis will meet with students to measure for the correct size of their chosen instrument. Musicians will bring home a supplies list with the appropriate instrument size indicated for you to take to the music store.

RENTING AN INSTRUMENT

Most music stores in the area provide an instrument rental/purchase plan. Fees paid during the rental period can be credited toward the purchase of the instrument at a later time. I will provide flyers to some local stores upon request. Generally, stores with "violin" in the name have onsite repairs for stringed instruments and staff more knowledgeable about stringed instruments.

FCPS offers financial assistance for orchestra. If you would like to formally request financial assistance, please indicate that on the google sign up. Instruments For All is the name of our program that can provide violins and violas for a reduced fee.

If you need other assistance securing an instrument, please email Mrs. Ellis.

Are we playing in person or virtually this year?

We are having orchestra classes **IN PERSON** this year. FCPS has worked hard to come up with guidance that allows us to be appropriately spaced out. Instruments and equipment will not be shared with classmates. We will keep masks on at all times during class.

Do you accept 6th grade beginners?

YES!!! We would love to have as many 5th and 6th graders as possible in our orchestra program this year, which means many 6th graders will be taking on this opportunity for the first time.

How much time outside of school will this take up?

All of our orchestra classes happen during the school day. We hope to have our Spring Concert at the end of the school year. Beyond that, orchestra students are expected to practice regularly at home (10-15 minutes per day) but that is done individually so your student is free to work it into their schedule however it best suits your family.

Sign-Ups are due by Thursday, September 2nd. If you have any questions, please email me at egellis@fcps.edu. I look forward to working with your musician this year!

Musically,

Ellen Ellis