

NILES TOWNSHIP ORCHESTRAS
SIZZLING STRINGS
INFORMATION PACKET
JULY 28th - AUGUST 1st, 2025
AT NILES WEST HIGH SCHOOL

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear Niles Township Orchestra Families:

Here in this information packet, you will find important details pertaining to our Sizzling Strings Summer Camp!

WHEN: July 28th through August 1st from 3:00-6:00 PM every day (please see the [SCHEDULE](#))

WHERE: Niles West High School

WHO: 4th through 8th graders in Niles Township orchestra programs for 2025-26 SY

CONCERT: Friday, August 1st at 5:30 PM – see [SCHEDULE](#)

REGISTRATION: [Registration form](#)

COST: \$25.00 per student [paid through 8to18](#) (see [instructions here](#))

MORE INFO: You can find all of this information here as well.

The Niles Township High Schools District 219 traditionally hosts a Township-wide orchestra camp every summer to provide an opportunity to orchestra students in 4th through 8th grades to perform with other young orchestra musicians in the community and to have a chance to work with Ms. Frakes at the high school and see what it will be like when they join NWO! We are so glad to be able to keep this tradition alive during the summers.

Do not hesitate to contact me or your Orchestra Director if you have any questions about this camp! I'm so excited to meet you and make music with you!

MS. NATALIE FRAKES

Director of Orchestras

Niles West HS | 5701 Oakton St, Skokie, IL 60077

T: 847-626-2629 | E: natfra@d219.org

www.nileswestorchestras.com

CAMP SCHEDULE

[You can also view the calendar here.](#)

MONDAY - THURSDAY

TIME	ITINERARY
3:00p every day	Instrument & Ensemble Assignments (Monday only) Drop-off at Door 24A Activities for all students
3:15-3:30 PM	Warm-up / Ensemble activities
3:30-4:30 PM	Rehearsal
4:30-5:05 PM	Snacks + Break Recess in the Fieldhouse
5:10-5:55 PM	Rehearsal
6:00-6:10 PM	Pick-up at Door 24A

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1ST - PERFORMANCE DAY - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TIME	ITINERARY
3:00-3:15 PM	Drop-off at 24A Warm-up, tuning
3:15-3:45p	Ensemble rehearsals
4:00-5:00 PM	Dress rehearsals on stage
5:00-5:30 PM	Set-up Line-up / placement
5:30-6:00 PM	PERFORMANCE – Niles West Auditorium There is NO AFTERGLOW this year! AFTERGLOW – please bring a snack / dish / dessert / refreshment to share!

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

Your musician will check in and out with a Sizzling Strings Faculty member at drop-off and check-out points at Niles West High School.

1. From Oakton St. make a RIGHT (to go WEST) toward the tennis courts where you will see **DOOR 24A**.
2. Pick-up will be at **Door 24A** near the circle drive by the tennis courts and gyms.

Drop-off begins at **2:45-3:15p** and **pick-up** is at **6:00-6:15p**

www.nileswestorchestras.com/sizzlingstrings

MATERIALS

We suggest Sizzling Strings participants should bring the following each day.

- Instrument
- Water bottle
- Sweatshirt or layers (if it is very hot outside because of A/C)
- Snacks (optional)

We will provide students with the following materials:

- Snacks (i.e, chips, goldfish, cereal bars)
- Folders with music
- Instruments **only if requested** (provided by [Cassandra Strings](#) if needed)

ENSEMBLE PLACEMENTS

Your student will be assigned into one of four separate groups per their director recommendation and/or after briefly performing for the Director and Coaches:

- Cadet Orchestra - 0-1.5 years of experience (beginners)
- Concert Orchestra - 2-3 years of experience (intermediate)
- Sinfonietta Strings - 3-4+ years of experience (advanced)

Students will be assigned to these groups after the first day on which we will have short “auditions”. We also base placement on the recommendations of their Orchestra Director, grade level, and experience. Please contact [Ms. Frakes](#) and your Orchestra Director with any questions.

COMMUNICATIONS

If you have any questions, you can contact Ms. Frakes at natfra@d219.org.