

# THE BBHES 5TH GRADE STRING ORCHESTRA

Dear Fifth Grade Students and Parents,

I am honored to write to you as the director of the Fifth Grade String Orchestra! My dedication and love for teaching music to BBH Orchestra students is what keeps me gratefully happy and fulfilled. I have put together this letter to help answer some questions about the Orchestra Program. **In order to join, you must click on the link below to OFFICIALLY REGISTER for Orchestra.**

## [5th Grade Orchestra Registration Link](https://forms.gle/Gr6nXdH6aVZbigtn8)



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## QUESTIONS??

- **When are the classes?**

Orchestra classes are held during the school day. String Orchestra class is your last class of the school day.

- **How many times a week do we meet for music?**

We meet 3 days out of each week, and you report to another class for the remaining 2 days.

- **What about concerts?**

Three evening concerts will be scheduled this year. These concerts are required for the orchestra members and are scheduled and communicated well in advance of the concert date. It is a great way to display your progress to family and friends. Most parents cannot believe how quickly you grow and develop into an awesome young musician by the end of the school year!

- **Do we have to buy our own music?**

Yes. **We use Essential Elements 2000, Book 1** for the school year. You can find this at your local music store. This will be the only additional cost other than your supplies and instrument rental fees.

- **Can I do both band and orchestra?**

The answer is NO since they meet at the same time each day. If you are thinking about Band, we think this is great! Please come talk to us and let us know.

- Undecided?

## ***We have a special meeting for Parents and Students on AUGUST 27, TUESDAY, 6:30 PM, BBHES Cafeteria.***

This is an invitation for all students and parents to visit Mrs. O'Neal, ask questions, try out an instrument, and get fitted for the appropriate size before you make any decisions.

- Is orchestra fun?

Most definitely!!! It is like no other class in school. Instead of reading about a subject or doing paperwork on a topic, students in music learn by a hands-on approach. Most of all our senses are active while playing an instrument through sight, touch, and, of course, hearing. Students also enjoy the social aspect of learning something new with their friends, and the thrill of progressing together. They want to be part of something bigger than themselves like a team.

- Is the music hard?

Yes & No. ANYONE CAN LEARN to play a stringed instrument and most people do have the necessary skills and aptitude to succeed in a music program. The problem lies in that music takes a fair amount of dedication. Like most things in life, to be good at something you need to work at it. In other words, PRACTICE. Practice is by far the single most important element to being successful on any musical instrument. Without sufficient practice (20 minutes per day, 4 days a week), students may stagnate in their abilities, struggle a bit more, and then get discouraged because they can't play as easily while other students can play without much effort. The most challenging part of music comes when a person's natural talent ends, and hard work and dedication must take over. To a certain extent, it's the "challenge" of anything that makes the experience more valuable and worth doing.

We hope this will help you learn more about the String Orchestra. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you join the 5th Grade Orchestra this year!

Musically Yours,

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