

Opportunities for Parents to Get Involved!

Any parents who wish to get involved with the orchestra program beyond attending concerts will have ample opportunity. Please indicate below if you would like to volunteer your time and talents. Your help is greatly appreciated!

If you are willing/able to help out in any of the following areas, please check the appropriate boxes:

- Volunteering at Solo/Ensemble, Feb. date TBA, 2012.
More information to come!
- Providing piano accompaniment for students involved in Solo/Ensemble Contest
- Chaperoning for rehearsals at Stevenson High School (during the school day) or other field trips or concerts
- Taking pictures or videotaping concerts
- Other (please specify) _____



Aptakistic Junior High Orchestra Handbook 2011-2012



**Directed by
Ms. Nicole Vettraino**

Welcome!



Parents and students,

Welcome to the new school year! I am looking forward to an exciting year with the seventh and eighth grade orchestra members. This handbook will familiarize you with the structure, expectations, and policies of the orchestra program. Students will go over this information in class. Please read it carefully and then sign and return the back page by **Thursday, September 1st, 2011.**

Ms. Vettrano

Orchestra Goals



Music provides a wonderful outlet for intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic expression. As students move beyond their first few years of playing, our goal is for them:

- 1) To continue to improve instrument technique for ease of playing
- 2) To increase knowledge of the musical language through the study of music theory, history, composition, and improvisation
- 3) To gain further appreciation for the beauty and wonder of music
- 4) To gain a sense of self-fulfillment as they see how their efforts allow them to reach their goals

Orchestra Handbook Information Sheet

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Instrument _____

Home phone _____ Birthday _____

Parent/Guardian Names:

Family Email (preferred email address to receive orchestra updates)

Student Email _____

Sforzando String Interest

_____ Yes! I would be interested in playing in Sforzando Strings and be willing to rehearse once a week after school on Fridays.

***We have received the Aptakasic 2011-2012 Orchestra Handbook, read it, and marked our calendar with all required dates. We will develop a practice schedule and complete the weekly practice chart.**

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

*****Please sign, detach, and return this page to Ms.**

Vettrano by Thursday, September 1st, 2011.



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Oct. 4 -	IMEA Auditions (optional) <i>Deer Path Middle School, Lake Forest</i>	4:30-7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 18-	Fall Orchestra Concert (gr. 6-8) <i>Meridian Middle School Gym</i>	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 5-	IMEA Festival (participants) <i>Wauconda HS, Wauconda</i>	all day
Thursday, Dec. 15-	Winter Orchestra Concert (gr. 5-8) <i>Stevenson Performing Arts Center</i> Rehearsal at Stevenson HS in a.m. (students bussed)	7:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. TBA-	Consortium Event <i>Stevenson High School</i> Rehearsal with Stevenson Orchestra followed by performance in PAC, and pizza	3:00-6:00 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. TBA-	Solo/Ensemble Contest <i>Location TBA</i>	
Monday, Mar. 19-	Spring Orchestra Concert (gr. 5-8) <i>Stevenson Performing Arts Center</i> Rehearsal at Stevenson HS in a.m.	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 30-	Year-end Orchestra Concert (gr. 5-8) <i>Stevenson Performing Arts Center</i> Rehearsal at Stevenson HS in a.m.	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 7-	IMEA prep rehearsal <i>Stevenson High School</i>	4-6 p.m.
Friday, May 18-	Orchestra, Band, Chorus performance <i>Meridian Middle School</i>	during day
May TBA-	Jazz Cafe (Sforzando Strings only) <i>AJHS Small Gym</i>	7:00 p.m.
June TBA-	Orchestra End of Year Picnic	

Weekly Group Lessons

In addition to daily orchestra rehearsal, students have the opportunity for a weekly 30 minute group lesson to receive more individualized attention and explore technique and supplementary repertoire.

SCHEDULE:

- Students will be given a consistent time (ex. every Friday at 7:40 a.m.).
- Attendance at group lessons is required. In the event of a classroom conflict (test, project, etc.), absence from school, it is the student's responsibility to do a make-up lesson before or after school or arrange another assignment. *If not made up, the student is still responsible for learning the material for the review week.*
- Students must communicate with their other classroom teachers to make up missed work.

BOOKS:

- Lessons will start Thursday, Sept. 1st. Ms. Vettrano will order the method books, for which there will be a **small fee**.
- Students must bring their binder and method books to each lesson. *If they forget their materials three times, they will be given a lunch detention.*

INSTRUCTION:

- Lesson material and instruction will be geared toward the student's level of playing. More advanced students will be challenged with supplementary material.
- **Students will be given specific assignments in their method book and goals for practicing, and they will be required to fill out weekly practice charts, which must be signed by parents.**
- **They will spend a few weeks learning new material in the lesson and then have a review week, where their performance will be counted as a grade.**

Daily Class

LOGISTICS:

- Orchestra class will take place in room 90.
- Students will be able to store their instruments on racks in the classroom.
- Students will receive papers in individual mailboxes and turn in papers in the black bins.
- Rosin, rubber bands, bandaids, and other materials will be located in the plastic drawers.
- Extra music will be stored in the shelves by Ms. Vettraino's desk.
- PTA notices will be on stands by white board, where students can voluntarily pick them up.
- Names of students who have to make up lessons will be listed on side white board.
- Names of students with library fines will be posted on the window at the entrance of the classroom.

PROCEDURE:

Students will:

- Come to class with instrument, binder, and method books each day!
- Unpack instrument and replace case on rack, as well as put books under chairs.
- Be in their seat 2 minutes after the bell ready to play.
***Lateness will be assessed based on whether or not they are ready to play at the appropriate time. They will know to begin class when Ms. Vettraino is on the podium and plays a call for the orchestra to echo.
- Refrain from talking during tuning.
- Actively participate in a variety of activities including exercises/games for technical proficiency, theory and ear training, music history, and rehearsal of concert repertoire.
- HAVE FUN!!!

Sforzando Strings!

(pronunciation=
like sports, but with an f, then ando)



Calling all orchestra students who like jazz, movie, fiddle, or rock music! After a successful second year, Ms. Vettraino would like to continue Sforzando Strings. The group will again meet on Friday after school every week and play on the orchestra concerts, as well as the Jazz Cafe function later in the year. This is an extracurricular activity where students can explore many different styles of music. Any students (of any instrument) who are interested should indicate that by checking the appropriate box on information sheet on the back page of the handbook. :o)

As in the past, students can join by the quarter, except in the latter half of the year, in which they must commit for both 3rd and 4th quarter.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the year!



Ms. Nicole Vettraino
Email: nvettraino@aptakisc.k12.il.us
Phone: (847) 353-5564

Check my staff page, located under 7th grade on the Aptakisc website, for information about upcoming concerts, tests and quizzes, and helpful links.

Seating

The orchestra seating will be determined by many factors including: playing ability, balance between sections, and the student's demonstration of leadership in class. Seating will be rotated each concert. Violinists will get a chance to play in both the first and second violin sections during the year.



Private Lessons



Private lessons are strongly encouraged for junior high students, especially for those who plan on participating in high school orchestra. Please contact Ms. Vettrano for a list of area teachers if you are interested and need help finding a teacher.

Practice Club!

Students are encouraged to practice at school! This allows them the freedom to leave their instrument at school. They can practice on most days between 7:15-7:40 a.m. and 2:50-3:45 p.m., and use the orchestra room or the hallway nearby to prepare their lesson material and orchestra music. They can work alone or practice with a buddy!

Ms. Vettrano will be available for help and make-up lessons by appointment. Any student who wishes to receive extra help or supplementary instruction is welcome to set up a time.

BEHAVIOR:

Students are expected to:

- Be respectful towards the teacher and fellow students.
 - Refrain from chewing gum in class (water is ok, as well as snacks if lunch is late).
 - Ask permission to leave the classroom, take a pass, and sign in and out.
 - Stop playing when the teacher stops conducting and listen carefully to rehearsal instructions
- *****Productive and positive rehearsals will result in Friday free time each week

Consequences



- Students must strive for exemplary behavior and organization. Within each quarter, the following offenses if they occur 3 times, will result in lunch detention, with more offenses resulting in an after school detention:
 - Each time a student is late to class (i.e. not ready to play 2 minutes after the bell), he or she will fill out a blue slip
 - Each time a student forgets materials (music, books, etc.) or instrument for class or lessons, he or she will fill out a pink slip
 - Each time a student is disruptive in class, or is disrespectful toward the teacher or other students, he or she will fill out a green slip

Supplies

- **Black 1/2" Binder with 5 dividers!**
- Instrument
 - Cellists and bassists can use school instruments but will be asked to pay a yearly usage fee of \$60
- Folding music stand (for home practice)
- Rosin
- Shoulder rest (RECOMMENDED) or sponge
- Rock stop
- Extra set of strings (if not renting)*
- Metronome and tuner for home practice (optional)



Concert dress is the following :

Girls: Nice black pants or black skirt (at least knee length when sitting), **black shirt or blouse**, black shoes

***No fitted skirts for cellists!

Boys: Nice black pants, **black button-down shirt or polo**, black socks, black shoes

***No gym shoes, white socks, jeans, t-shirts, or sleeveless shirts! Black shirts can be long or short-sleeved.



Instrument Repair

Because of the nature of stringed instruments, many repairs can only be done by specialists. Please share any problems with Ms. Vettrai. Repairs will be made by the student's rental company and often times they will supply a loaner while repairs are being made. Students who own their own instruments are responsible for financing all repairs/maintenance and can ask Ms. Vettrai for recommendations on a string shop.

In the event of a broken string, students renting will be supplied with a replacement string through their rental company. School instruments will be maintained by the district. Students who own an instrument should keep a spare set of strings in their case. Ms. Vettrai will keep strings in stock for student purchase in an emergency.

Grading



Quarterly grades will be based on the following criteria:

1.) **Daily participation (20%)**

- Students will receive points based on active participation in class and lessons.

2.) **Performance attendance (20%)**

- **Students must attend all performances.**
 - These events are the culmination of daily rehearsals and give the students the opportunity to share what they have learned!
 - If a student can not attend a required performance, he or she must bring a signed note from home explaining why. **Absences will only be excused if approved by the teacher at least two weeks before the performance.** Family emergencies and serious illnesses will be excused.
 - Students who miss a performance will complete a make-up assignment.

3.) **Performance and Lessons (30%)**

- Students will be graded on their performance at lessons during review weeks. A rubric will be provided in advance, designating what students should focus on practicing.
- Students will also be asked to do an occasional playing quiz in class.

4.) **Written Work (MUSIC THEORY) (30%)**

- Written work will include theory and music listening assignments, quizzes, and tests. No written homework will be assigned (ONLY PRACTICING!!!).