

4th Grade Orchestra
Beloit Elementary School
Michael Harbaugh - Instrumental Music Teacher
mharbaugh@usd273.org

August 9, 2018

4th Grade Orchestra Students and Parents,

Fourth Grade Orchestra lessons will begin on **Monday, August 20**. There is no charge for the lessons. **The 2018-2019 string instrument rental fee of \$11.00 is due for those using a School Owned String Instrument. Please pay the fees in the school office on or before September 11, 2015.** (The \$11.00 rental fee that was paid in May 2018 was for only use during the 2017-2018 summer program, the fee is *due again for the 2018-2019 school year.*) U.S.D. 273 will not provide insurance for private instruments so there will be no orchestra participation fee this year.

Orchestra lessons will be scheduled during Music and PE special class periods, twice each week. The 4th Grade Orchestra Class will also rehearse **8:15 AM - 8:45 AM** each Thursday.

How Can You Help Your Child

1. Provide him with as good an instrument as you can reasonably afford. USD 273 provides a limited number of beginner and intermediate size string instruments for student use, the school district is not in the business of renting full size instruments in most cases. Please consider obtaining a full size instrument for your child!
2. Give him a safe place to keep his instrument.
3. Arrange a regular time for him to practice and see that he sticks to it. PARENTS NEED TO DO THIS MOST OF ALL! Please initial his practice record after his practice.
4. Find a quiet place for his practice with good light and a music stand.
5. Show an interest in his music study - never make fun of the strange sounds he may produce.
6. Require faithful attendance at all rehearsals, meetings, and concerts of the groups in which he participates.
7. Help him remember his instrument on lesson or orchestra day.

Orchestra Progress Report Cards will be issued at the end of the first 9 week grading period. The Progress Report will cover over-all playing, tone, fingering, technique, note reading, responsibility, care of instrument, attendance, and practice record.

Grades of S or N and comments will appear on their BES Grade Card at the end of each 9 week grading period. Daily grades will be posted on Skyward, the students will be graded on participation and effort for each rehearsal.

The 4th Grade Orchestra Class will present two programs this school year. Parents, friends will be invited to a demonstration concert to be held at 1:00 PM on **a date to be announced later** in the basement of the Beloit Elementary School. The Orchestra students will also participate in the ***BES 4th Grade Music Program on Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 PM*** in the All-Purpose Room of the Beloit Elementary School, 119 N. Hersey Avenue.

The only way to progress is through a regular, definite schedule of home practice. Beginners should practice 20 minutes a day at first. Later they should be encouraged to practice 30 minutes a day. The exact amount of time is relatively unimportant, what is important is DAILY PRACTICE. Students will be required to keep a PRACTICE RECORD CHART to record their daily practice. Please help the students keep the practice record up to date. The practice record will provide an ongoing 3 way communication between student, parents, and teacher; help the student learn to keep accurate records; and earn awards. Certificates awarding home practice will be issued at the end of each 9 week grading period.

Sincerely,

Michael Harbaugh
Orchestra teacher

Mrs. Remus's students will have orchestra lessons each **Monday at 10:57 AM during Music and each Friday at 11:24 AM during PE beginning Monday, August 20. Students will need their instrument and book every Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Practice Record Charts will be graded every Monday.**

Mrs. Baxa's students will have orchestra lessons each **Wednesday at 11:24 AM during Music and at 10:57 AM during PE each Friday beginning August 20. Students will need their instrument and book every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Practice Record Charts will be graded each Wednesday.**

Mrs. Pruitt's students will have orchestra lessons each **Monday at 11:24 AM during PE and at 10:57 AM during Music each Wednesday beginning August 22. Students will need their instrument and book every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Practice Record Charts will be graded each Monday.**

