

6th Grade Orchestra

Beloit Elementary School
Michael Harbaugh - Instrumental Music Teacher
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August 9, 2018

6th Grade Orchestra Students and Parents,

Sixth 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 Instrument. Please pay the fees in the school office on or before September 11, 2018.** USD 273 will not provide insurance for private instruments so there will be no orchestra fee this year. (Have you checked with your private insurance agent concerning insurance for your instrument?)

Orchestra Lessons, 5th & 6th Grade String Orchestra, Junior Orchestra!

Orchestra lessons will be scheduled during PE special class periods once each week. The **5th and 6th Grade String Orchestra** will rehearse at 12:20 - 12:55 each Monday and Wednesday. The first 5th and 6th Grade String Orchestra rehearsal will be at 12:20 on **Monday, August 20**. The **Beloit Junior Orchestra** for all string students grades 5 through 8 will rehearse from 7:25 to 7:56 each Wednesday and Friday at the Beloit Jr.-Sr. High School. *The first Beloit Junior Orchestra rehearsal for 6th grade orchestra students will be on **Friday, August 24** in the band room of the Beloit Jr.-Sr. High School.* The students will be bused back to the Beloit Elementary School after each rehearsal. Parents of bus riders may pick up mileage reimbursement forms at the Beloit Elementary School office, the forms will be turned in at the end of each semester.

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.
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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.

6th grade string students will take two short "*performance exams*" during the school year

(about 30 to 50 measures). These exams are intended to encourage the students to practice the parts of the music that need extra attention for the Orchestra to perform best and as evaluative criteria of our Fine Arts General Program Objectives. The exams will be graded using a rubric containing our performance goals with bonus points for those keeping excellent practice records up to date. The practice record must be initialed by the parents each week to receive any credit, please help the students keep accurate records up to date. ***Since the exams are graded on specific skills and not the overall performance they should not be considered by the student, parent, or teacher as an overall performance indication.*** The criteria and length of the tests will be increased with tests given less often as we progress. Each student will be allowed to ***record their performance exam at home*** and bring the digital copy to class or e-mail to Mr. Harbaugh. Students may perform the test at school and Mr. Harbaugh will digitally record the audition if the student does not have the ability to record at home. *Students should re-record the test at home as many times as necessary for the best results if possible.* Students will be seated in their Orchestra sections using this performance material. I will attempt to offer constructive criticism of the performance and hope that this "game" will be a fun way to progress. In music we do not compete with each other as much as we are on a quest for success! Please keep in mind that music is an art form although we do have measurable goals that help us master the fundamentals of a sound performance.

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 and comments will be posted on Skyward, the students will be graded on participation and effort for each rehearsal.

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.

Sincerely,

Michael Harbaugh
Instrumental Music Teacher

Thibault's group will have lessons at **8:42 AM** each **Monday** during PE. First 5th and 6th Grade String Orchestra rehearsal will be on **Monday, August 20**. *Students will need their string instrument and music folder every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.* Practice records will be graded every Monday.

Gober's group will have lessons at **8:42 AM** each **Wednesday** during PE. First 5th and 6th Grade String Orchestra rehearsal will be on **Monday, August 20**. *Students will need their string instrument and music folder every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.* Practice records will be graded every Wednesday.

Staab's group will have lessons at **8:13 AM** each **Tuesday** during PE. First 5th and 6th Grade String Orchestra rehearsal will be on **Monday, August 21**. *Students will need their string instrument and music folder every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.* Practice records will be graded every Tuesday.

Schedule:

August 20	Mon.	First day for 6th grade string lessons (see schedule listed above).
August 20	Mon.	First day for 5th/6th Grade String Orchestra rehearsal (12:20 PM)
August 24	Friday	First Jr. Orchestra rehearsal at BJSHS for 6th grade students (7:25 AM)
November 13	Tue	Fall Orchestra Concert, 7:00 PM at BJSHS this concert includes the Beloit Jr. Orchestra
November 16-17		Western Kansas Orchestra Festival in Hays 6th gr. is the first year students are eligible for this overnight trip
December 21	Fri	5th/6th Grade String Orchestra will perform for the Beloit Elementary School in the all-purpose room. 8:20 AM
February 20	Wed	Kansas Wesleyan University @ Salina Music Festival, all Jr. Orchestra members are required to participate. This event replaces the Hays City Music Festival again this year.
April 22	Mon	Spring Orchestra Concert, 7:00 PM at BJSHS
May 10	Fri	NCK-Tech Graduation, tune at 6:30 PM at BJSHS <u>includes all 6th grade string students</u>
May 18	Sat	BHS Commencement, tune at 11:00 AM at BJSHS <u>includes all 6th grade string students</u>

This list is not meant to be complete, but to give you as many dates in advance as possible. All other dates will be written on the board in the Orchestra Room as they are arranged. It is the responsibility of the **STUDENT** to convey this information to his parents. Please check calendars carefully to avoid any problems.

