



IT'S TIME TO JOIN THE ORCHESTRA! *An Investment in Your Child's Future*

Dear Future Orchestra Parents,

Each year at this time students have the opportunity to join the award winning Crown Point Orchestra Program! You will be pleased to know that the study of music can be one of the most valuable steps in your child's education. Research shows that playing an instrument increases brain development, develops individual responsibility, discipline, teamwork, and self-esteem. It will also provide enjoyment while fostering a lifelong appreciation of music and the arts.

Orchestra Registration Nights will be 4-7 PM on March 5th at Taft Middle School and March 7th at Wheeler Middle School. The registration night is a "one stop shop" where students can try out and choose to play either the violin, viola, cello, or double bass, and parents can pay for the summer strings camp fee and pay for an instrument rental. For your convenience, representatives from Quinlan and Fabish Music Company will be present to assist you and answer any questions about the rental process. If you own a violin, viola, cello, or bass, please bring it for a playing check. Instruments and bows that have not been played for a long time may need some TLC. They may also be the wrong size for your new orchestra student.

Summer String Academy will take place Monday-Thursday at Crown Point High School starting on Monday, June 10th thru Thursday, June 27th. This camp will give your child the basic knowledge needed to hold and play their new string instrument. If students go on vacation, plenty of staff will be available to assist in getting your child caught back up to their class when they return. Any time that you can attend is extremely valuable!

Summer String Academy Schedule for 2024	
8:00-8:50 AM	Beginning Strings 1
9:00-9:50 AM	Beginning Strings 2
10:00-10:50 AM	Incoming Sixth Grade Strings
11:00-11:50 AM	Incoming Seventh and Eighth Grade Strings

We look forward to meeting with you at registration. If you have any questions after visiting our Orchestra FAQ, please feel free to contact one of us by email!

Sincerely,

The Crown Point Orchestra Orchestra Directors

Aaron Zemelko - azemelko@cps.k12.in.us

Kristen Hughes - khughes@cps.k12.in.us

Bethany Borgo - bborgo@cps.k12.in.us

Orchestra FAQ

Will orchestra interfere with school work?	We have found both in our school system and others that many children have improved their scholastic standings and interest in school after joining orchestra. In fact, our members are frequently valedictorians and salutatorians! Orchestra students score 51 points higher on the verbal portion of the SAT test and 39 points higher on the math portion than students who do not.
What is an orchestra and what does/can it do?	An orchestra is composed of the <u>violin</u> , <u>viola</u> , <u>cello</u> , and <u>bass</u> instruments. At high school levels, we will add wind instruments from our band programs to create a symphonic orchestra. <u>Orchestra members participate in concerts and contests.</u> The members will be able to play in solo and ensemble contests-both in the district and at state level. As our orchestra program grows, we will have many opportunities for your child to perform outside of school, from Chicago to Disney World!
Are strings hard to play?	It is important to keep in mind that it requires a great deal of work to play any instrument well. But generally speaking, it takes "stick-to-it-iveness" to learn to play a string instrument. This is where being a string player teaches valuable skills like patience and determination.
Can I be in sports AND orchestra?	YES! There are only ever a few conflicts with the orchestra and they are usually very easy to resolve! <u>Many of our high school string players are currently in varsity athletics</u> - ranging from football to golf! We strive to have a good relationship with our coaches and to appreciate the vast interests of our students.
What about practicing?	Practice makes perfect! Unfortunately, there are no short-cuts and no substitutes for home practicing. Just like anything else, it takes patience, time, and hard work to be successful. Beginning orchestra students should practice at home around 10-15 minutes a day, middle school students 25-30 minutes a day, and advanced students have the stamina and skills to practice up to an hour or more a day. Consistency is key!
What instrument should my student choose?	
Violin - The smallest and highest pitched instrument in the string orchestra-the soprano voice of the string family. The violin is held horizontally and supported on the player's shoulder. An orchestra has more violins than any other instrument, thus they must be divided into first and second violin sections.	
Viola - This instrument resembles the violin, but is slightly larger in size. This instrument produces a lower sound, similar to the alto voice of a choir. Its mellow tone quality adds a unique dimension to the orchestra. The viola is held in the same manner as the violin. Good violists are always in great demand in various performing groups and college scholarships are readily available.	
Cello - The violoncello, commonly called the cello, has a beautiful tone which gives the orchestra a rich, full sound. It produces a wide range of pitches and is equally popular as a solo and an orchestral instrument. The cello can be compared to the tenor voice of a choir. It is supported by an endpin which rests on the floor and is always played while seated.	
String Bass - The double bass has a deep, dark sound which gives the orchestra a solid foundation. A very versatile instrument, it can be used in a variety of groups from a symphony orchestra to a jazz combo. The bass is the largest instrument of the string family and thus the bass voice of the orchestra. It can be played in either sitting or standing position. Good bass players usually find scholarships to attend college.	
How do I get an orchestra instrument?	Rental programs provide a quality instrument that your child can use without the need to buy new instruments as your child outgrows the old one. It also doesn't leave you with an unwanted instrument if your child decides it is not for them.

WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED IN BEING IN THE 2024 SUMMER ORCHESTRA?

Summer Orchestra Tuition	\$110.00
Instrument Rental	Violin/Viola - \$69.00 (\$25/month after trial) Cello - \$99.00 (\$35/month after trial) Bass - \$156.00 (\$55/month after trial)
Accessories	Shoulder rest/sponge for violins/violas - \$5-15 Music Stand (for home practice) - \$16.00

We have made arrangements with Quinlan and Fabish Music Company, a reliable music store in Valparaiso, to offer a rental plan for those who need to obtain an instrument. Quinlan and Fabish has provided us with quality service for decades, however, there is no obligation to rent or purchase an instrument from them. They provide a representative who visits our schools weekly so we can take care of maintaining your instrument without you having to visit the store. You are welcome to pursue other instrument rental avenues.

Students rent the instrument for the first 4 months and then on a monthly basis. Rental money will apply towards the purchase of a full size instrument when your child is ready.

Most people find it convenient to pay the \$110 summer orchestra tuition at sign up night. A \$55 deposit is also acceptable. The remainder of your tuition is due by the start of the summer class. Tuition is payable by check, cash or credit/debit card. Checks should be made out to CROWN POINT SUMMER STRINGS. Instrument rental may also be paid at sign up night, but is due by the start of summer class. Please be prepared to pay for your student's 4 month instrument trial.

WHAT IF I WANT TO PROVIDE MY OWN INSTRUMENT?

If you have a used or new instrument in mind, the main things to consider are correct size and playability. We will be happy to check any instrument for you. There are many bargains online of shockingly poor quality, like instruments from Amazon. Painted instruments may be "visually appealing" but actually sound terrible. Paint permanently closes the pores of the wood and chokes the sound. Varnish forms microscopic cracks that allow for the natural sound of the wood to open up over time. **Painted instruments are not acceptable in our program.**

DOES 5TH GRADE CLASSES MEET DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR?

String classes will be offered once a week at Taft and Wheeler. Students will continue to grow and develop musically and socially with the orchestra. They will participate in concerts, festivals, and have a great time learning to play! A class schedule will be made available before the start of the academic school year. As your child progresses to middle and high school, orchestra will be part of their class schedule and will meet daily as a class for full academic credit.

You may also go to www.crownpointsummerstrings.com to register your child and pay for the summer orchestra camp online. If you know your child's instrument size, you may also complete the instrument rental at www.gandf.com or call the store at 219-462-5086.

We look forward to meeting with you at registration! Questions? Send one of us an email!

Mr. Zemelko azemelko@cps.k12.in.us, Mrs. Hughes khughes@cps.k12.in.us,
Mrs. Borgo bborgo@cps.k12.in.us

PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THIS APPLICATION AND RETURN IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO YOUR CHILD'S MUSIC TEACHER BY FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH.

2024 Summer Beginning Orchestra Program REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____

MUSIC TEACHER _____

I am interested in playing the: **Violin** **Viola** **Cello** **Bass** (circle one or two choices)

Do you own a string instrument? Yes____ No____ If "yes", please bring it with you to a registration night. We'll be glad to take a look at it for you.

Would you like to rent an instrument? Yes_____ No_____

Parent's Name _____ Phone _____

Address, City, Zip _____

Parent Email Address _____

Student Shirt Size (circle one) Youth L Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL Adult XXL

In order to try out instruments and register, you are asked to come to Orchestra Registration Night on Tuesday, March 5th or Thursday, March 7th between 4 and 7 PM. You are not required to attend a specific night, but by telling us which night you may attend, we can be better prepared for your visit. Please indicate your preferred night below:

_____ Tuesday, March 5, 4-7 PM @ Taft MS _____ Thursday, March 7, 4-7 PM @ Wheeler MS

Please attend the registration event even if you have an instrument. This will allow us to register your child for a class and provide any needed information about our summer program. Yes, your fourth grader should DEFINITELY come along! They will want to try out the instruments!!!

Please enter the middle schools at the auditorium entrances.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR MUSIC TEACHER ASAP! We would appreciate having all forms no later than Friday, March 8th.

Thank you for your interest in your child's musical education!

Parent Signature _____