



♪ SLOAN CREEK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ORCHESTRA ♪

Dear Fifth Grade Parents,

In the Lovejoy school district, all sixth grade students have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. It is a fabulous program with wonderful opportunities for your child. The following information will introduce you to the Sloan Creek Intermediate School Orchestra program. We hope that you will consider orchestra as your elective music choice for next year.

Students begin orchestra in the sixth grade at Sloan Creek Intermediate School and Beginning Orchestra classes meet every day. **There is no prerequisite for participation in orchestra.** Students do not need to know how to read music or know how to play another instrument. Students who have studied piano or another instrument will find that some things may come a little quicker. Effort and practice will help with your success.

Once you have signed up for orchestra, we will contact you and we will meet to help you choose your particular instrument. Please do not rent or purchase an instrument before meeting with us. We will have an instrument selection meeting in the spring. We will be mailing more detailed information about this meeting in the near future. Please don't worry if you are unable to attend, we will find an alternate time to help your student choose their instrument.

Instrument Choices

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Bass

When choosing your child's music elective, many questions can arise. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions. If you have other questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail. We are always happy to help!

How do we know what instrument to play?

Once you have signed up for orchestra, we will have an instrument selection meeting when we can meet to choose your instrument. We will meet with the student and the parent so that the student can try the instruments again to determine what will give them the greatest success in orchestra. In most cases, students will play their first choice instrument.

If your student already plays an orchestra instrument, we will work with you to find the right class level for your child. We do have a 6th grade orchestra class for students with previous experience. Please email us for more details!

What if the instrument is too big for me?

Each stringed instrument comes in different sizes so that each instrument will fit the student. You do not need to worry about the instrument being too big for you. When we meet to choose your instrument, we'll find just the right size for you.

Does orchestra take a lot of time outside of school?

We will not have any before or after school rehearsals except right before a concert. Students may come in before or after school for extra help or for private lessons, but this is optional. Students will need to practice 15 minutes, 4 – 5 times a week as homework. We will have 3 – 4 concerts each school year.

Do I have to buy an instrument?

In most cases, students do not buy an instrument. Most parents have found that renting an instrument from one of the local music companies is the best option. Many students start on smaller sized instruments and grow into full size instruments so renting an instrument is wise in this case. We will be able to provide you with information regarding rental options.

Due to the larger size of the instrument, cello and bass students will rent an instrument for home practice and be assigned a school instrument, so that they do not need to carry it back and forth. Violin and Viola students will transport instruments back and forth each day. Instrument lockers will be provided for violin and viola students.

Special arrangements can sometimes be made for families with financial need. Financial issues should not affect the decision to be in orchestra.

Can I be in athletics and orchestra?

Students in the sixth grade do not participate in athletics. Many seventh and eighth grade orchestra students do participate in athletics and continue to do so in high school. There is nothing to be concerned with when choosing a music class.

Are private lessons available?

Yes, private lessons are available. We can provide more information for you at our instrument selection night.

What other things do orchestra students do?

There are so many studies that confirm the importance of music in our lives. Orchestra students can participate in solo recitals, small ensembles, solo and ensemble contests, all-region orchestras, all-state orchestras, and trips to other cities to participate in music festivals. Students can gain a feeling of self-accomplishment from being successful at these positive instrumental music experiences.

Again, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the Sloan Creek Orchestra Program. We are here to help you with this decision. Below we have included dates for our upcoming concerts. We would love for you to come and experience our orchestra program first hand. Thank you so much for your time and we hope to see you in orchestra next year!

Sincerely,

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Upcoming Orchestra Events

Monday, February 21, 2019 - Pre-UIL Contest Concert – 5:30 PM - Lovejoy HS Auditorium

A great concert to see our middle school orchestras and high school orchestras perform their selections for their upcoming UIL Contest performances

Tuesday, February 26, 2019 - Winter Concert (6th grade orchestra) – 6:30 PM – SCIS

A great look at what orchestra looks like during the second semester of 6th grade

Monday, March 4, 2019 – 5th Grade Instrument Selection Night – 5:00 – 8:00 PM – SCIS Fine Arts Area – After you have selected orchestra as your music elective, you will attend this meeting to select what instrument you would like to play in 6th grade orchestra.

Monday, April 29, 2019 – SCIS and WSMS Orchestra Spring Pops Concert – 6:30 PM - Lovejoy HS Auditorium Our end of the year orchestra concert featuring all orchestras from grades 6 - 8 performing fun popular selections

Thursday, May 2, 2019 – LHS Orchestra Spring Pops Concert – 6:30 PM - Lovejoy HS Auditorium Our end of the year orchestra concert featuring all orchestras from grades 9-12 performing fun popular selections