



Maus Orchestra Director, Jamie Romo 469-633-5276

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Maus Orchestra Assistant Director, Brynne Taft

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You are invited to be a Part of the Orchestra Program!

6th grade Students and Parents:

You are invited to be part of the orchestra program in the 6th grade. The orchestra allows your child the opportunity to begin playing a stringed instrument of their choice. Students in orchestra can play the violin, viola, cello, or bass. There are many advantages to being in orchestra class. Here are a few of them:

New Skills: students in orchestra learn how to handle an instrument, how to care for it, and best of all, how to play it. No prior experience necessary.

Teamwork: The orchestra teaches students to coordinate their individual abilities into one central effort. It gives students the feeling of group loyalty and motivation. The orchestra gives any child that essential feeling of belonging.

Friendships: You have instant friendships because you all share in your Orchestra Experience.

Discipline: The orchestra teaches responsibility. Emphasis is placed on following instructions and teaches the child to respect music.

Concentration: Attention to detail is vital in all education-related projects. Concentration built in orchestra often carries over to other areas, improving study habits and increasing intellectual understanding and curiosity.

Personal Achievement: Recognizing, meeting, and overcoming a challenge may be the single most rewarding experience of all. Orchestra participation offers that opportunity by providing a learning experience where growth and fulfillment can occur.

Appreciation: Orchestra participation encourages respect and appreciation for aesthetic values and the beauty of the music created.

A Career or Scholarship: For students who possess the talent, drive, and discipline necessary there are performing careers. Many other students find that they have the individual potential that leads to receiving a college scholarship for playing their instrument.

You are invited to attend our Orchestra Instrument Nights!

- **January 17, 2024 from 4:00 to 7:00PM Maus Orchestra Room**
- **January 27, 2024 from 4:30 to 8:30PM Maus Cafeteria**

MAUS ORCHESTRA IS THE PLACE TO BE





MAKE MUSIC & MAKE FRIENDS!!

**Want to be a part of something GREAT this year?
Don't let Orchestra be the missing piece in your education!
Why you should join Orchestra in 6-8 grade!**

- Be a part of something bigger- a group, a family. Orchestra is the team sports of MUSIC!
- It is an organization of friends and family that helps you “fit in” to your new Middle School way of life.
- You have instant friendships because you all share in your Orchestra experience.
- Playing an instrument improves grades and helps with time management skills.
- Perform in Festivals and contests off campus.
- Being in orchestra can help you earn scholarships for college.
- The average orchestra student graduates nearly 100 class rank points ahead of the average non-orchestra student.
- As an academic class, orchestra grades count toward a student's overall high school GPA and class rank.
- Colleges recognize orchestra as both an academic endeavor and a curriculum extension. It is viewed as a student asset on applications and contributes to both admission and scholarships.
- Many orchestra students who do not major in music receive scholarships through orchestra participation. Nationally, more money is given to musicians than any other single category, including Athletics.

MAKE SURE ORCHESTRA IS WRITTEN DOWN AS YOUR FIRST ELECTIVE CHOICE TO ENSURE CORRECT PLACEMENT!!!!

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~ See you in orchestra class ~



Four exciting instruments to choose from....

Violin - The violin is the smallest of the four types of stringed instruments in the orchestra. It is also the highest sounding instrument of the string family. It has four strings (G, D, A, and E) and is played by placing the instrument under one's chin and drawing the bow across the strings. There are generally two sections of violins in an orchestra, which are referred to as the first and the second violin sections. The first section plays one written part to the music and the second section plays another. A person who plays the violin is referred to as a violinist. Some famous violinists to look up on the computer are Lindsey Stirling and Itzhak Perlman.

Viola - The viola looks very similar to the violin, however it is larger. It is played in a similar fashion to the violin, but it is a deeper sounding instrument. It also has four strings, which are the C, G, D, and A strings. Most orchestras have one viola section. A person who plays the viola is referred to as a violist.

Cello - The cello is a larger instrument than both the violin and the viola. It also has a deeper sound. It is played by standing the instrument on the floor and placing the cello between one's legs. Similar to the violin and viola, the cello is played by drawing a bow across the strings. The strings on a cello are C, D, G, and A. Most orchestras have one section of cellos. A person who plays the cello is referred to as a cellist. Yo Yo Ma is one famous cellist. Cello can be played classical of course. To see some more contemporary cello playing, search youtube and look up 2CELLOS. Many students who want to be in a rock band play the cello. It is in bass clef and the notes are in the same clef as the bass guitar.

Double Bass - The double bass is the largest stringed instrument in an orchestra. It has the lowest pitch of all four of the stringed instruments described here. It is played by standing the instrument on the floor and drawing a bow across the strings. Unlike a cello, the double bass is played by standing behind it or sitting on a tall stool because of the large size of the instrument. The strings on a double bass are E, A, D, and G. Most orchestras have one double bass section. A person who plays the double bass is referred to as a bassist. The bass keeps the beat for the entire orchestra. Many bass players are in jazz and rock ensembles. You may see a Bass Player on Bourbon Street in New Orleans with their sunglasses on and chilling with the beat. All of the stringed instruments work together to make up the string section of an orchestra. An orchestra that is made up entirely of stringed instruments is called a string orchestra. The combination of different pitches and sounds played on the various instruments create music that has been enjoyed by many people throughout the years.

MAUS BEGINNER ORCHESTRA performances

- Main Event Music Contest
- Solo Festival
- Fall & Winter Concert
- Spring Concert

7th & 8th GRADE ORCHESTRA performance opportunities

- School performance for assemblies
- UIL Contest
- Stonebriar Mall Performance
- Peak Music Festival
- Elementary Tour
- Art shows, Special performances for administration

FUN ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

- Orchestra Movie Night
- Orchestra Hot Chocolate Social
- Orchestra Fundraising Carnival Party
- UIL Pizza Party
- End of the Year Pool Party