



## WLMS Orchestras 2018-2019

### Welcome!

It is exciting to welcome you to a new year of music at Westlake Middle School. Our program is growing and we have enough students for a full 8th grade Chamber Orchestra!! Teaching string music is a passion of mine, but my favorite part of the year is getting to know and enjoy each of you. I look forward to learning and growing with all of you this year. I can't wait to see where this year takes us!

### Course Description

Westlake Orchestra is designed for students who enjoy music and who are interested in studying the Violin, Viola, Cello, or String Bass. Performances will include participation in at least two concerts per year, and may include festivals and music clinics. Westlake Orchestras are designed for students who want to improve, develop good musicianship skills and grow their technique on their instrument. Class activities include rehearsal techniques, mastery of music reading, evaluation of skills development, and the study of music theory and music history.

### Expectations

- Each student is expected to fully participate in all rehearsals and performances. Performances are mandatory.
- Every student should have their instrument, a pencil, and method book in class every day.
- Every student is expected to practice regularly and turn in practice charts regularly.
- Every student is expected to follow "The Westlake Way" - Be Kind. Be Respectful. Be Invested.

### Instrument Rental

- *7th and 8th grade* students are expected to have their instruments in class by **Monday, August 20th**.
- There will be an **Instrument Rental Night** for all *6th grade* students **Thursday, September 6th** at 7pm in the gym. Students will have the opportunity to rent an instrument and purchase all other supplies for the year including method books. 6th grade students may also rent or purchase an instrument on their own for use in orchestra. 6th grade students will start bringing instruments to class **Monday, September 10th**. (*Cello and Bass players will not be required to take their instruments to and from school, but will keep their instruments at home for practicing. School instruments are made available for these students to use in class.*)
- There are a limited number of school instruments for rent.

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## Supplies

All orchestra students will need the following:

- method book
- music stand for practice at home
- rosin for the bow
- a soft cloth for cleaning off rosin from the instrument
- shoulder rest for violins and violas
- rockstop or endpin strap for cellos and basses
- 7th & 8th - 1/2" 3-ring binder, black or white for sheet music
- tuner to tune instrument at home - highly recommended!

## Method Books

6th Grade Beginning Strings

Essential Elements 2000 for Strings: Book 1

7th Grade Concert Orchestra

Essential Elements 2000 for Strings: Book 2

- Not needed until 2nd semester

8th Grade Chamber Orchestra

Essential Technique 2000 for Strings: Book 3

- Used in LHS Orchestras as well

*\*Note: Method books are purchased for specific instruments, violin, viola, cello, or bass*

## Practicing

Practicing and music go hand in hand. Concepts and ideas are taught in rehearsal, but the skills needed to play a musical instrument can only be refined during home practice. Practicing is vital to a student's self-evaluation.

**Grading:** The total minutes listed below are minimum amounts of time that a student should practice in a given week.

### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 4 = over 2 1/2 hours (150+ minutes) per week
- 3 = 2 hours (120 minutes) to 2 1/2 hours (150 minutes) per week
- 2 = 30 minutes to 119 minutes per week
- 1 = 29 minutes per week or less

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 4 = over 1 1/2 hours (90+ minutes) per week
- 3 = 1 hour (60 minutes) to 1 1/2 hours (90 minutes) per week
- 2 = 15 minutes or 59 minutes per week
- 1 = 14 minutes per week or less

## Miscellaneous:

### • **Hall Passes**

In order to limit the distraction of students coming and going from class during rehearsal, each student will be given two hall pass requests per quarter. If you need to go to your locker, get a drink, go to the restroom, etc. you may use your requests. Please always try get these things done during your passing period.

### • **No Food, Gum, or Cell phones**

No food or gum are allowed in the orchestra room. You may bring a water bottle with a sealed lid. Cell phones must be off and out of sight!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. The best way to reach me is by email.

Sincerely,

**Erica Dunford, WLMS Orchestras**

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