

OCTOBER ORCHESTRA NEWSLETTER

Hello my Fiddle Players,

It's been lovely seeing your progress every week. Keep it up! Keep getting those practice sheets signed and remember that all it takes is 5-10 minutes a day. Here are some tips when practicing:

1. **READ THE NOTES FIRST!** I usually read them enough that I don't have to look at it later.
2. **WARM-UP.** This could be anything you can do to wake those fingers up! Maybe a piece you've played a few weeks ago that sounds good.
3. **SLOW DOWN.** Playing an instrument is not a race, unless it's a playing race in the class. Don't worry about playing fast until you get those notes down.
4. **3 TIMES PERFECT.** You'll know that you've practiced enough when you can play it three times in a row perfectly. This is one of my own checkpoints too when I practice.

Instrument Sizes: I've noticed some of you are growing at a ridiculous rate and I haven't fully gotten the chance to email all of you if you need to change a size. I think the best possible way to let you know is just by telling you. And I hope that information goes to your parents. For those of you moving to a full size violin or cello, it might be a good idea to just purchase an instrument instead of rent. I can give you some suggestions on where to look with a reasonable price range.

4TH GRADERS!

Please, please, PLEASE make sure you keep practicing. We've been getting through a lot of material and playing at home does a great deal. It reinforces everything we've gone through in class as well as setting you up for good practicing habits in the future.

I am still in the process of setting up our Orchestra Blog for the year. From what I've seen last year, people did not really check on it. However, this year I will be posting links to the music we're learning if you want to know what it sounds like. This site will also have copies of the big ensemble music for the 5th and 6th graders so hopefully, there will be no need for me to make more copies if you lose it.



Suzuki Books: For the 5th and 6th graders that have these books, this method of playing is known all over the world. I've even grown up with this same book and to me, it changed playing the violin from a chore to playing actual, real music with better tone and musicality. But the trick is to listen to the piece before playing. Unfortunately, I can't spend all our class time listening to music. So I am in the process of posting this on our orchestra blog. (yes we have one. It's on nhpa.org) Other than that, I have a cd of all the songs and if you bring in a blank cd or a flash drive, I can download it for you for the next class.

Parent/Teacher/Student conferences: November 3 and 4 are the two days for Parent/Teacher Conferences. All of you are welcome to schedule one with me and I would love to have parents and students there so we can discuss what to look for when playing a string instrument. I'll send more information as the time gets closer as to what schools I will be at on what day. Feel free to send me an email if you are interested. tiangcoa@nhsd.net

*And lastly,
I am attaching a list of private instructors for those of you who would like to get into playing more or need any extra help on your instrument. I know meeting once every 6 days can be hard and sometimes frustrating, but there are some great string teachers out there.*

Miss Tiangco

"A violin sings. A fiddle dances. And the player makes it music!"