

Hawk Elementary 4th Grade Parents:

This letter is to inform you of the opportunity for your child to participate in the Hawk orchestra program next year in 5th grade.

There are many benefits to participating in the orchestra program. Research studies have linked instrumental music study with benefits in the areas of cognitive development, critical thinking, creativity, physical coordination, self-confidence, social skills and emotional well-being. I hope that you and your child will consider enrolling in the orchestra program for next year.

What would be expected of my child as a member of orchestra?

- Your child would attend orchestra class every Tuesday and Thursday before school at 7:15 am.
- The student must provide their own instrument and several supplies that they must have with them every orchestra day. You will receive a supply list at your instrument sizing meeting.
- Students are required to practice between 45 minutes to 1 hour per week outside of class time.
- The orchestra performs 3 evening concerts during the year. Concert attendance is required for students.
- Participation in the class is a full-year commitment. Students may not drop the class during the school year. Even though this is a before-school class, students will be officially enrolled in this class in the DISD grading system and receive a grade on their report card for the orchestra class.

How do I sign my child up for the orchestra program?

- Fill out the attached sign-up form and have your child turn it in to their 4th grade teacher or the front office. If you need another form, it is posted on the “How to Join Orchestra” page on our orchestra website.
- Choice of instrument selection will also be given on a first-come first-served basis. Your child will need to rank their 1st and 2nd choice of instrument on their form. Almost all students get to play their first choice.
- I will notify you by email to confirm that your child has received a spot in our class.

How do I get an instrument and the required orchestra supplies for my child?

After you are notified that your child has been accepted into the orchestra class, please bring your child to an instrument sizing meeting with Ms. Harvey during one of the following time slots:

- Wednesday, May 24 “come and go” 7:20-7:50 am in the Hawk orchestra room. The orchestra room is the middle portable room on the left side of Hawk. Arrive close to 7:20 and depending on how many students are present, Ms. Harvey will spend about 5-10 minutes with each student.
- Wednesday, May 24, 3:30-4:30 pm by appointment in the Crownover Middle School Orchestra Room. Ms. Harvey will need to know you are coming so the Crownover front office staff know to allow you to come down to the orchestra room.
- Wednesday, May 24, “come and go” from 5-7 pm in the Crownover Orchestra room. Enter the main back doors of the school (facing the football field) and follow signs to the orchestra room.
- If none of the above listed dates and times fit into your schedule, please contact Ms. Harvey to work out an alternate plan.
- At the meeting, you will meet Ms. Harvey and the student will be sized for their instrument. You will receive information about their required supplies for next year, a recommended music store list, and instructions on your options for getting the required instrument and supplies before the beginning of next year.
- If you believe you will qualify next year for the DISD free or reduced lunch program, you may qualify for financial assistance with a rental instrument through our fee waiver instrument program. You can receive more information about this program at your instrument sizing meeting.

Please contact me with any questions -

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