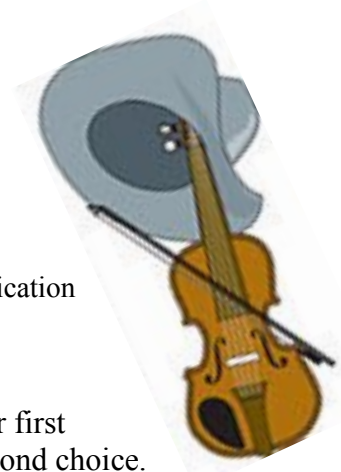


Hawk Elementary 4th Grade students:

Next year you have the option of participating in the 5th grade orchestra class

What are the benefits of participating in orchestra?

- ♪ Learning a new skill
- ♪ Making new friends
- ♪ Learning to play music
- ♪ Being a part of a team
- ♪ Representing your school at contests, concerts and field trips



Is orchestra hard?

Yes and No. Learning to do something new is challenging and it takes hard work and dedication but it is also a lot of fun!

What instruments can I choose from?

You can choose the violin, viola, cello or bass. Most students will get to play their first choice of instrument but if your choice fills up you may be asked to learn your second choice.

Do I have to do orchestra all year?

Yes. if you start orchestra you must do it all year. Sometimes students feel like quitting in the middle of the year because it seems hard to learn something new. At the end of the year they are always glad they did not quit when they look back and see how much progress they have made.

What activities does the orchestra do?

The orchestra has class 2 times per week from 7:15-8:00 am. The orchestra performs 3 concerts per year. We also take a field trip on a school day to the Sandy Lake Amusement Park where we compete in an orchestra contest and then have fun at the park all day.

How much do I have to practice?

Orchestra students are asked to practice about 45 minutes to 1 hour per week outside of class time.

Can I skip 5th grade orchestra and join orchestra in Middle School?

In Denton ISD our orchestra programs start in 5th grade and each year builds on the skills learned the previous year. At most middle schools the directors will work with you to allow you to participate in their program regardless of your past experience level, but skipping a year would most likely require you to be in a class with students 1-2 years younger than you or possibly take private lessons to replace lost instruction time. It is highly recommended to start in 5th grade if you are interested in learning an orchestra instrument.

If I do orchestra in 5th grade am I required to do it in 6th grade?

No. The orchestra program is designed for students to continue from 5th to 6th grade and beyond, and most students do, but you may choose a different class if you decide orchestra is not a good fit for you.

Music makes you smarter!

Did you know?

University studies conducted in Georgia and Texas found significant correlations between the number of years of instrumental music instruction and academic achievement in math, science and language arts.

- *University of Sarasota Study, Jeffrey Lynn Kluball; East Texas State University Study, Daryl Erick Trent*

College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness.

Carl Hartman, "Arts May Improve Students' Grades," The Associated Press, October 1999.

Music majors are the most likely group of college grads to be admitted to medical school. One study found that 66 percent of music majors who applied to medical school were admitted. Only 44 percent of Biochemistry majors were accepted. Also, a study of 7,500 university students revealed that music majors scored the highest reading scores among all majors including English, biology, chemistry and math.

- *The Comparative Academic Abilities of Students in Education and in Other Areas of a Multi-focus University, Peter H. Wood, ERIC Document No. ED327480 The Case for Music in the Schools, Phi Delta Kappan, February, 1994*