

Elementary Orchestra

Director of Orchestras: Kat Sterbenz



Date Orchestra Begins:

Friday, September 20, 2019

What time?

Class takes place: Monday – Friday
At Northern Hills Elementary School
Students should be in the classroom by
7:30am. Please don't arrive any earlier
than 7:20am

The bus leaves at 8:15 to take them
back to Elementary School.

Attendance and Absence Notification

Attendance will be taken at every
rehearsal. Because of the every-other-
day rehearsal schedule, it is imperative
that orchestra members attend all
rehearsals. Failure to attend class
could result in expulsion from the
string program.

If a scheduled appointment will cause
a student to miss a rehearsal, or if a
student missed or unexpectedly,
parents should notify orchestra staff of
the absence so that it may be recorded
as excused, as so that it will not affect
the student's orchestra grade. Notes
may be sent with students to rehearsal
prior to or immediately following
absences, or you may notify us via
email.

Who to email with absences:

Kat Sterbenz

ksterbenz@usd345.com

Where to drop off kids?

For Parents that need to drive their
student to school: students should be
dropped off at Northern Hills
Elementary school by the southeast
double doors closest to the bussing
area. A teacher should be there to let
your student into school.

Concert Dress

Wear nice dress clothes.
No skirts above the knee when sitting.
No sweatpants, sweatshirts, or shorts.

Concert dates for the year:

Winter – Friday, December 6, 2019 at
7:00pm in the SMS Gymnasium

Spring – Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 7:00pm
in the SMS Gymnasium

Grading

Students will be graded in two
categories: Attendance and Tests.

Attendance will be worth 75% of a
student's grade. This means the
student comes to class with all
materials needed (instrument, music,
pencil, shoulder rest).

Tests will be worth 25% of a student's
grade. Tests will occur once every
semester before the concert.

Bussing

Busses will transport students from Northern Hills to their home schools after rehearsal each morning. All musical staff members will inform your student what bus they need to ride in order to be taken back to school.

Write it Down!

Please keep a written copy of your student's instrument type, brand, model, and serial number written down at home. It's a good idea to have this information available if unusual circumstances should occur, such as a fire at school, tornado, theft, etc.

Directors Contact Information

Kat Sterbenz:

ksterbenz@usd345.com

School Phone: 785-286-8300

You, the parent, can make a difference by supporting the efforts of the band and orchestra program, the school staff, and especially by your student's practice habits.

Practice Expectations

Music achievement requires effort over a period of time. The time in

rehearsal is limited. New concepts learned at school need weekly personal practice time by your child at home in order for these new skills to be developed. You can help your child by:

- Providing a quiet place for them practice
- Remaining nearby during practice times as often as possible
- Scheduling a consistent daily time for practice
- Praising your child's effort and achievements

Please encourage your students to be practicing their instrument at least 4 days a week for 15-30 minutes. At this early stage, they should not practice any more than 30 minutes or they could develop bad habits/injuries.

Students can also "practice" without their instruments simply by writing in notes or fingering, singing/humming the piece, or pretending to play an air instrument.

Please feel free to visit rehearsal any time. You need not make an appointment, and you have an open invitation. If we can help your child in any way, please don't hesitate to call. Let's have a great year!