



ORCHESTRA NEWSLETTER

December 2017

Director's Note

What a spectacular winter orchestra concert! Thank you to all the families who came out to support your children and the orchestra program at Wauwatosa East. It is incredible to hear the tremendous growth that happens between sixth and twelfth grade. Also a special thank you to the Orchestra Parents of Wauwatosa East for organizing the amazing post concert reception!!

With the winter concert complete, students will be switching gears in January to our chamber music unit. Each orchestra student at Wauwatosa East will spend the next two months working on a solo and playing as a member of a small ensemble. The culmination of this unit will be a performance at the WSMA District Solo & Ensemble Festival, held on March 3rd at Wauwatosa West High School. If you haven't already, please mark your calendars for this all day event. If you have conflicting commitments, please make sure your student communicates them to me prior to registration (mid-January).

Speaking of March, students will also perform at the annual Wauwatosa All-City String Festival on March 18th, 2018. As in past years, students will perform at both the 1:45PM and 3:30PM shows. All City festival is again held at the Brookfield East Field House.

Have a wonderful winter vacation and I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

~Michael Hayden

Upcoming Events

March 3rd, 2018

District Solo & Ensemble Festival
Wauwatosa West High School

March 18th, 2018

Wauwatosa All City String Festival
Brookfield East Fieldhouse
1:45pm & 3:30pm (perform both times)

In the classroom

Major themes from this month:

Tone: Performing with a clear and resonant sound

Technique: Performing with proper right and left hand technique, posture and playing position.

Dynamics: Students in all grades have focused on expanding their dynamic range and how to adjust accordingly their bow weight, speed, and placement.

Rhythm: Rhythm will be a continued focus throughout the school year. Students will continue to grow their understanding on how to count a variety of rhythms

Expression: Students in all grades have continued to develop their understanding and abilities in musical expression. This is going beyond notes and rhythms with things such as dynamics, phrasing, and vibrato.

Concert Recap / YouTube

Again, what a wonderful winter concert. I truly hope you were filled with holiday cheer (and cookies) when you left the East theatre last week.

New this year, [Christmas Festival](#) was performed as an audience sing a-long. This part was included in the original score and it was wonderful to hear members of the audience (and cello section) enthusiastically singing along.

Finally, recordings of orchestra concerts can be found on the [Wauwatosa East Orchestra Parents YouTube Channel](#).

Or by clicking the link below:

<https://goo.gl/2Hzr8F>

Enjoy!

Contact:

Michael Hayden

haydenmi@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us

414-773-2192



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