

Teacher's Corner

Orchestra students are back up and running after what felt like a very short winter break. East students began our first week back pivoting to their unit on chamber music (WSMA solo & ensemble) and started rehearsing music for All City String Festival.

Speaking of hitting the ground running, East Symphony Orchestra will be hosting 8th graders for our first side by side rehearsal at the end of this month. This gives 8th graders a small sample of what high school orchestra is like, and will hopefully get them excited to be at East next year.

On another note:

Even though it hasn't been super cold yet, it is always a good idea to be mindful of temperature changes this time of year and how it impacts our string instruments.

Here are some helpful tips.

- Keep instrument in the case
- Try to avoid extreme temperature changes
- Don't leave instruments in the car
- Try to maintain a consistent humidity level. [Dampit](#) makes an inexpensive humidifier.
- Remove rosin dust after every use
- Keep instrument away from heat vents
- Keep extra strings on hand
- Allow instrument time to "warm up"

As always, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask!

-Michael Hayden
Orchestra Director

Upcoming Events

March 2nd, 2019

District Solo & Ensemble
Wauwatosa West High School
All Day

April 14th, 2019

Wauwatosa All City String Festival
Where: Brookfield East Field House
1:45 pm / 3:30 pm Performances

Chamber Music Unit

Every year, students in East orchestra perform a solo and as a member of a small ensemble at the District Solo & Ensemble Festival, held on March 2nd at Wauwatosa West High School. The festival runs all day, however, students will only need to be at Tosa West during their assigned time (and with enough time to warm up.)

Student schedules typically come out two to three weeks prior to the event with the final schedule coming up one to two weeks prior to March 2nd. Should you have pre-existing commitments scheduled for March 2nd please have your student communicate those to me so we can either 1. Schedule around them or 2. Find another festival location/day.

This event is run entirely by Wauwatosa music teachers AND parent volunteers. Stay tuned for volunteer sign up.

String Festival Music

As our annual tradition, this year's All City String Festival will be performed by all students at East and West.

Students will be performing:

[A-Flat by Black Violin](#) (an American hip-hop string duo)

[Highlights from the Greatest Showman](#)

[Troika](#) (a traditional Russian sled) by Sergei Prokofiev

TRIP PASSPORTS

If your student is traveling to Austria and the Czech Republic next year and does not already have a passport, now is a great time to start the application process. US State Department has application info listed on their website.

[CLICK HERE.](#) Your passport will need to be valid for at least 6 months after our return date. If you have a passport already, be sure to check the expiration date.

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