

6th Grade Beginning Orchestra Information

Teacher: Sarah Silva & Email: ssilva@dsdmail.net

ORCHESTRA ORIENTATION NIGHT:

Wednesday, September 12th @ Farmington Jr. High 5:30 – 8:30 Open House Style (come anytime): Register for the class, Try-out instruments, Learn more about the program, Ask the teacher questions!

(Can't make it to the Orientation Night? No problem, you can still register online...please see registration steps below...)

WHY learn to play a stringed instrument?

The String Family consists of Violin, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. These instruments make up the core of Orchestra. They are versatile and beautiful in all public and private settings. Learning to play a musical instrument does more for engaging the human brain all at once than any other activity. It will open a world of growth and excitement to your child. In general, students who play a musical instrument will do better in school.

WHAT instruments are offered in 6th Grade Orchestra?

6th Grade students are given the opportunity to learn the Violin, Viola, Cello, OR String Bass (students choose one). While I do include harpists in my Orchestra groups, the harp is not an instrument I teach and students must come with the ability to already play the harp. Guitar and Piano are not offered in Orchestra.

WHO can join orchestra?

Any student who is in 6th Grade can be in Orchestra. *No previous music experience is required. There is NO COST to join, instruction is FREE.* Occasionally, students with previous violin, viola, cello, or bass-playing experience want to join Orchestra in 6th Grade and they are very welcome...please email me directly to ask about more intermediate/advanced playing opportunities available to them.

WHEN and WHERE does orchestra meet?

Orchestra meets **TWO TIMES A WEEK** at your child's elementary school. Once before school and once first thing in the morning after school begins. See Mrs. Silva's elementary teaching schedule...

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7:45 am - 8:30 am: Knowlton Elem. (Stage)	7:45 am - 8:30 am: Endeavour Elem. (Stage)	7:45 am - 8:30 am: Canyon Creek Elem. (Stage)	7:45 am - 8:30 am: Farmington Elem. (Library)	7:45 am - 8:30 am: Eagle Bay Elem. (Gym)
8:45 am - 9:30 am: Farmington Elem. (Gym)	8:45 am - 9:30 am: Eagle Bay Elem. (Gym)	8:45 am - 9:30 am: Knowlton Elem. (Stage)	8:45 am - 9:30 am: Endeavour Elem. (Stage)	8:45 am - 9:30 am: Canyon Creek Elem. (Stage)

****SPECIAL NOTE:** The elementary Orchestra schedule is set by the Davis School District and is the same at ALL elementary schools. Registered Orchestra students are given released time to miss their regular 6th Grade class one time a week to participate in Orchestra class. Students will work with their 6th Grade teachers to make-up any missed work during that time they are away.

HOW do I sign my 6th Grader up for Orchestra?

STEP 1: REGISTER your student (once your student is registered, *he/she is committed* to be to class *both days a week, on-time*, for the *duration of the school year calendar...until we end in the first week of May*).

1. **You MUST HAVE your student's ID NUMBER** (this 7-digit number can be found when you go to your myDSD guardian account and click on your student)
2. **Attend the Orchestra Orientation Open House that will be held at Farmington Jr. High from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the Commons/Cafeteria area. You will be able to try out the instruments at the petting zoo, ask questions, and register your student in person. If you can't attend, you may fill out the registration information online at my website...go to Farmington Jr. High School Webpage, click "Faculty/Staff" Search for "Silva" then under my information, click "Sarah Silva Board"...under the "class information" tab you will find the registration form**

STEP 2: OBTAIN an instrument.

1. Students are required to provide their own instruments to use for the class.
2. Instruments are easily and very affordably obtained from local music stores, these are the names of all the stores in Davis County that I am aware of...
 - a. Summerhays Music: <https://www.summerhaysmusic.com/>
 - b. Riverton Music: <https://www.rivertonmusic.com/>
 - c. Bert Murdock Music (Main Street Music in Kaysville & Bountiful Music on Main Street in Bountiful): <http://www.bertmurdockmusic.com/index.php>
 - d. Classical Strings: <https://www.classicalstrings.net>
3. Cellos and Bases CAN BE BORROWED from the Davis School District at no cost. There is a very limited supply. Instruments are loaned out on a first come, first serve basis. To inquire about the availability of one and to reserve it, contact Mrs. Silva via email: ssilva@dsdmail.net as soon as possible.

STEP 3: OBTAIN your other orchestra supplies (one-time purchase, some supplies may be provided for FREE from music stores with your rental)

1. Violinists and Violists require a proper SHOULDER REST in order to be comfortable when playing and to promote proper posture, not all shoulder rests are created equal...try out a few to find the best comfort and the best fit.
2. Cellos need a ROCK STOP to prevent their instruments from slipping on a hard surface (I prefer the strap kind because they stay in place easier and are adjustable but any kind is fine).
3. Bass players may also need a ROCK STOP HOWEVER, I would recommend just getting a small carpet sample and applying a non-slip rubber backing to it for the bass end-pin to sit on, it's much easier for students than trying to aim the end-pin into a small hole that they can't see.
4. All students will also need good ROSIN, a SOFT-CLEANING CLOTH, a FOLDING MUSIC STAND, and a METHOD BOOK: **Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 (published by Hal Leonard)**

STEP 4: SEE YOU THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS WITH YOUR INSTRUMENT AND SUPPLIES!

1. Knowlton Elementary 1st Day: Wednesday, September 19th @ 8:45 am on Stage (no school Monday the 17th-Teacher Work Day)
2. Farmington Elementary 1st Day: Thursday, September 20th @ 7:45 am in Library (no school Monday the 17th-Teacher Work Day)
3. Endeavour Elementary 1st Day: Tuesday, September 18th @ 7:45 am on Stage
4. Eagle Bay Elementary 1st Day: Tuesday, September 18th @ 8:45 am in Gym
5. Canyon Creek Elementary 1st Day: Wednesday, September 19th @ 7:45 am on Stage

Concerts/Performances:

WINTER HOLIDAY CONCERT: Wednesday, December 12th @ Farmington High School @ 7:00 PM (student call-time is 6:00 pm in the band/orchestra room)

END OF YEAR COMBINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONSTER CONCERT: Date/Time/Location is still TBD. More information will be available as it gets closer to the event