

# Woodstock Big Buddy Program

## Dear Parents of 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra Students,

Woodstock District 200 Orchestra program sponsors a voluntary music enrichment program called *Big Buddy*. In the Big Buddy program, experienced high school musicians coach younger musicians in fourth through eighth grade. A *Big Buddy* can play a very important role in the musical and social development of a younger music student. Please read the following information and consider signing your child up with a *Big Buddy* this year!

### Program Description

4<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade students receive the *Big Buddy List* from their director. Parents of young musicians will contact recommended *Big Buddies* directly to set up a time and place for the students to work together. *Big Buddy* sessions are 30 minutes. The first two sessions are offered at no cost. If, after the first two sessions, the *Big Buddy* and the parents of the younger student agree that the sessions have been successful and decide to continue, the parents will pay the *Big Buddy* a fee of \$10.00 for each additional session.

### Responsibilities of a *Big Buddy*

During a typical session, the *Big Buddy* will listen to the younger student and play with them through their assigned practice material. The *Big Buddy* will offer encouragement, make suggestions, and demonstrate some playing techniques that will help the younger student perform the musical exercises more successfully. Big Buddies will work together with the student's director by keeping the young student focused on the lesson and concepts for that week, helping the student resist the temptation to move too far ahead in the book or their music.

### Big Buddy vs. Private Instrumental Instruction

*Big Buddies* are talented high school students who have successfully come through the Woodstock 200 Orchestra Program. They are qualified to practice with young students, offer encouragement, share insight on being in orchestra, and offer general tips for improving performance. However, Big Buddies should not be expected to offer the same qualified instruction that a professional private instructor can give. Students are encouraged to work with both a *Big Buddy* and an adult private teacher if they want to maximize their success on a musical instrument.

### Rewards

A good relationship between a Big Buddy and a young instrumental music student can often be the difference between a young student getting frustrated and quitting and a student making good progress and continuing! Young musicians are usually very proud of their *Big Buddies* and will often remember things their *Big Buddy* tells them better than the things their band or orchestra director tells them!

[Click here](#), or scan the QR code, to request access to this year's Big Buddy List!

Please consider having your child participate in this program this year!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Tingley, Ms. Forbes-Rycroft, Mrs. Savittieri, Mr. Viveros and Ms. Valentine

