

## Director's Note

Happy January orchestra families!

We had a wonderful first semester and are ramping up for an incredible second half of the school year.

Our winter, at the moment, has taken a turn and brought some recent freezing temperatures. If your musician hasn't already mentioned it, winter is a good time to think about instrument care, especially with our nicer, temperature/humidity sensitive string instruments. The best way to ensure consistent temperature is to keep instruments away from exterior walls and radiators. Next best is to invest in a small instrument humidifier like this one from [Humidi-Guard](#).

The second semester brings the end of our solo unit and the beginning of the famed chamber music unit. Each student at East will spend two months working as a member of a small ensemble, performing trios, duets, and quartets. Students work three days per week in our small groups with a culminating performance in early March.

Finally, we are thrilled to welcome back Paul Hauer (MSO), Alex Ayers (MSO), Nathan Hackett (MSO), Thea Vorass (Hello Cello), Clay Schaub (the Commercialist), and the Philomusica Quartet to Tosa East this semester

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

## Upcoming Events

### **February 7th, 2026**

Symphony Orchestra Kidz Jam  
1:00pm Crafts & Snacks, 2:30 pm Performance

### **March 14th, 2026**

WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival  
Longfellow Middle School  
8am - 1pm

### **April 12th, 2026**

All City String Festival  
1:15 pm Arrive, 1:45pm Perform  
Brookfield East Field House  
Brookfield, WI

### **Solo & Ensemble Festival**

This year's WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival will be hosted at Longfellow Middle School on Saturday, March 14th from 8am - 1pm. All students at East have been working on chamber music aka small ensembles for this entire month and are encouraged to participate. Registration for the event is FREE for all students. Registration information has been distributed in class and students need to complete/return the simple form on or before January 29th.

### **Kidz Jam**

The 4th annual Symphony Orchestra Kidz Jam returns on February 7th. How can you help? Please share/post our flyer in your neighborhood Facebook groups.

### **Say Cheese**

We had a ton of cheese (over 2,000 blocks) sold by our musicians raising funds for their 2027 tour of Norway. If your musician participated, please review the separate attachment for information regarding pickup date, time, and location. Have an idea for another fundraiser? Reach out to Orchestra Parents of Tosa East. They are always looking for more ideas and additional volunteers.

### **All City String Festival**

Our All City String Festival will return to the Brookfield East Field House and is scheduled for April 12th, starting at 1:45pm. The concert should last about 45 minutes and end with a HUGE Ode to Joy.

## **Contact:**

Michael Hayden, NBCT

[haydenmi@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us](mailto:haydenmi@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us)

414-773-2192