



ORCHESTRA NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Director's Note

Welcome back East Orchestra families! My name is Michael Hayden, orchestra teacher, and I am thrilled to start my 10th year teaching in Wauwatosa and my 20th year teaching orchestra.

We have had a great month in orchestra, returning to our music routines, getting to know one another, and hitting the ground running making music. The beginning of each year focuses primarily on technique and tone development. Technique relates to right/ left hand position as well as how we hold the instrument and position our bodies while playing. Tone production is the quality of sound and how students can use the weight of their bow and the placement on the string to produce warm, rich, and resonant sound. Both are key to successful string playing.

If you're looking for some new supplies/goodies for your string playing, the fall is a great time to stock up for the school year. Items like rosin, shoulder rests, or extra strings are often found on sale at this time. I prefer local music stores for these items, however online retailers such as SWStrings and Shar Music are great resources (and will ship to your home).

Your first opportunity to see our musicians in concert is a little under one month from now. Our fall performance this year will take place in the **Dale K. Hidde Theatre at Tosa East on October 28th at 7:00pm**. The concert will also be streamed live for those families unable to join us in person. Happy 2025-2026 school year and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

~Michael Hayden

Upcoming Events

October 22nd

WPR Classical Music Day

6:30 - 8:30 pm, Chamber Orchestra Only

Bradley Symphony Center, FREE

Hosted by WPR and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

October 28th

Fall Orchestra Concert

7:00pm, Dale K. Hidde Theatre

All Orchestras, required event

LA 2025

We are now just weeks away from the much anticipated East Orchestra Tour of Los Angeles! Students will depart early on October 16th and return very late on October 20th. A reminder to students that October 21st is a school day. Students should try to sleep on the bus and plane but know they will be tired on Tuesday.

[View the most up to date itinerary.](#)

Classical Music Day

Wisconsin Public Radio and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra will host their second annual Classical Music Day on **October 22nd, starting at 6:30 pm** at the Bradley Symphony Center. This year, Tosa East's Chamber Orchestra is one of four groups that have been asked to perform. The event is completely free and will be recorded for a future broadcast on WPR, 90.7!. No tickets needed, however all are encouraged to [RSVP HERE](#).

Year at a Glance

December 17th

Winter Orchestra Concert

7:00pm, East High School

Required for all orchestras

February 7th

4th Annual Kidz Jam

1:00pm, East High School

Required for Symphony Orchestra

March 14th

WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival

8am - 1pm, Longfellow MS

Encouraged, not required

April 15th*

All City Strings Festival

6:45pm, West Allis Central

Required for all orchestras

April 25th

WSMA State Solo & Ensemble

All day, UW-Milwaukee

For qualifying events

May 20th

Spring Orchestra Concert

7:00pm, East High School

Required for all orchestras

Contact:

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TosaEastSideStrings