

ORCHESTRA NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Director's Note

Happy February!

We've had a relatively quiet yet packed month here in East orchestra. Students continue to engage in our small ensemble unit, which typically is scheduled two to three days per week. As a part of this unit, all students play chamber music, usually duets, trios, and quartets. Our unit is nearly over and will culminate with a week of in class performances starting on March 10th. Additionally, several student groups have opted in to perform at the upcoming WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival, held on March 8th at Longfellow Middle School. Performance times for the festival have been posted in the orchestra room and students should have communicated what time they're playing. And despite what your musician may say, family and friends are allowed in the rooms to watch.

You may have also heard about one or more of the guest musicians we've hosted this month, keeping us very busy. Coaches have worked with students on chamber music as well as led sectionals. Coaches are Clay Hancock, Nathan Hackett, Thea Vorass, Clay Schaub, and Ana Tinder.

Finally, students in Symphony Orchestra hosted another year of Kidz Jam, a concert event planned, organized, and run by the class. This year we saw 100+ families with small kids, all excited to make crafts, eat lots of snacks, try our string instruments, and hear the orchestra. Bravo to our students for such a great event!

Upcoming Events

March 8th, 2025

WSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival
Longfellow Middle School
8am - 12pm

April 16th, 2025

All City String Festival
6:15pm Arrive / 6:45pm Perform
West Allis Central Field House
West Allis, WI

All City String Festival

This year's All City String Festival will again return to the West Allis Central Field House. The success of last year as well as the close proximety to Wauwatosa has us excited to return. Last year we were able to celebrate the Tosa orchestra and are delighted at the continued growth of the orchestra programs, particularly at Tosa East and Longfellow. Both schools have seen a growing number of student musicians in the past few years and are poised to get even larger!

There are two performances this year for our string festival and East High School will perform at the 2nd performance of the evening, starting at 6:45pm.

MKE Pretzel Fundraiser

For those families who participated in the most recent orchestra fundraiser, Milwaukee Pretzel pickup will take place on Friday, March 7th. We are in the final stages of coordinating drop off times but hope to have confirmed pickup for families in the coming days.

All participating families will be emailed directly and can tentatively plan for an after school pick up on March 7th.

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