

Hello and welcome to the 2025-2026 school year for East Orchestra. I hope that you have had the BEST summers and are looking forward to an incredible year at Wauwatosa East High School.

Meet your teachers

For those families who I have yet to meet, my name is Michael Hayden and I am the orchestra teacher at East High School. This year marks my 10th year at Tosa East and my 20th year teaching orchestra. Prior to Wauwatosa, I taught orchestra and music technology in Hales Corners, Whitefish Bay, Tempe, AZ and Littleton, CO. I hold degrees in music and music education from the University of Colorado at Boulder and Northwestern University, and am Nationally Board Certified in orchestra. I live in the Roosevelt Neighborhood with my two daughters and am married to Longfellow's own (and my claim to fame), Ms. Roz.

This year we are excited to add another orchestra teacher, Ms. Dana Federmeyer (also at Longfellow), who will be with us several days per week helping out with our four (that's right, four) sections of orchestra. Ms. Federmeyer has previously taught in Waukesha, New Berlin, and is a highly sought after festival judge and state honors orchestra sectional coach. She holds degrees in music education and educational leadership from UW-Whitewater and UW-Milwaukee. She lives in the Washington neighborhood with her husband, two daughters, and two dogs.

2025-2026 School Year

Below is a handful of information to get our school year started, most importantly the 2025-2026 performance calendar. You'll notice that our fall concert has slightly strayed from the typical Wednesday concert night. With our October LA trip and the busy East theatre calendar, we did have to make this small shift to better accommodate all of the events at Tosa East. It does still keep us close to Halloween and you can expect to hear some *slightly* spooky music. Performances are a required part of our orchestra curriculum and all students are expected to attend/perform.

Concert Calendar

October 16th - 20th, 2025

East Orchestra LA Performance Tour
Los Angeles, CA

Tuesday, October 28th, 2025

*Fall Orchestra Concert
All orchestras
7:00pm at Wauwatosa East HS

Wednesday, December 17th, 2025

*East Orchestra & Longfellow 8th Grade Winter Concert
All orchestras
7:00pm at Wauwatosa East HS

Saturday, February 7th, 2026

4th Annual Kidz Jam
Symphony Orchestra Only
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Wauwatosa East High School

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Saturday, March 14th, 2026

WSMSA District Solo & Ensemble Festival
recommended but not required
8am - 1:00pm
Longfellow Middle School.

April 2026

*All City Strings Festival
Location and date TBD

Saturday, April 25th, 2026

WSMA State Solo & Ensemble Festival
For qualifying events
All Day, UW-Milwaukee

Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

*Spring Orchestra Concert
All orchestras
7:00pm at Wauwatosa East HS

*required for all students

Concert Attire

Musicians at Tosa East wear all black while performing. For returning students, there are no changes from previous years. For those new to Tosa East Orchestra, you can find a more detailed description [HERE](#).

Orchestra Fee

This year's orchestra fee of \$50 will be added directly to Infinite Campus and can be paid online, similar to other school/registration related fees. *This should be available in Infinite Campus the last week of August.* For those families new to East orchestra, we strive to offer the most comprehensive music education possible. The orchestra fee goes directly towards solo and ensemble registrations, guest performers, composer talks, commissioned pieces of music, transportation to/from special events, and in recent years, a consistent stream of instrument coaches to help our student musicians (including several members of the Milwaukee Symphony). While the orchestra fee does help finance these student opportunities, it is not the intent to create any barriers or financial hardships to participate in orchestra at Wauwatosa East High School. If you have questions, concerns, or need assistance with the orchestra fee, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Hayden. Finally, students can choose to participate in our annual late fall fundraiser to offset the orchestra fee. Details regarding the fundraiser will be sent home in October.

School Cello / Bass Rentals

East Orchestra will continue to be able to offer all students playing the cello or string bass an instrument to play while they're at school. These instruments stay in the orchestra room and are shared by other students during other class periods. There is a \$25 per year rental fee which will be added to your child's Infinite Campus account towards the end of September. **No action needed at this time.** Cello and bass students are expected to have an additional instrument at home to practice.

LA Performance Tour

This fall, East Orchestra will travel to California to record and learn about the LA movie/music industry. We'll also spend one day at Disneyland and an evening at the beach. As a reminder, our final trip meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30pm in the East Theatre. Most information for our LA trip has been emailed through the MyGateway system. If you have not been receiving emails, please check your junk folder.

Fiddle Club

As you may have heard, East has a before school Irish/Celtic/Bluegrass/Fiddle ensemble. This is a primarily student run group that is open to all students in orchestra. Typical meeting time is Wednesday at 7:15am.

Social Media

Finally, you can follow along with our classroom at our instagram page (@tosaeastsidestrings) or tag your own photos of concerts/events with the hashtag #tosaeastsidestrings. We also have a Facebook page: Wauwatosa East Side Strings.

Orchestra Boosters, Donations, and our Fall Fundraiser

Orchestra parents of Tosa East is a volunteer organization designed to support and highlight the happenings of the Wauwatosa East Orchestra. OPTE supports our guest artists and clinicians, trip fundraising, solo & ensemble organization, organizes volunteers for our concerts, and too many other items to list.

OPTE is currently seeking orchestra families to serve in various roles on their board, more specifically to assist with our October fundraiser. This fundraiser can be used to help support the mission of Wauwatosa East Orchestra and/or be used to offset the cost of the orchestra fee.

Orchestra Parents of Tosa East typically meets 4 times per year in addition to helping with various orchestra events. For those seeking more information or would like to get involved, please reach out to Patti Foley, pattifoley70@gmail.com. You can also join us at our next meeting, September 24th at 7:00pm in the orchestra room.

Finally, Orchestra Parents of Tosa East have a new donation platform that allows anyone to donate online.

<https://square.link/u/autsmrtn> Donations are also accepted via cash or check, made payable to Orchestra Parents of Tosa East, and can be mailed to East High School at 7500 Milwaukee Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. *Be sure to include a name you would like recognized in our concert program.*

That's all for now. Enjoy your remaining weeks in the summer and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

And your musician will need their instrument on Wednesday, September 3rd.

Sincerely,

Michael Hayden, haydenmi@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us

Dana Federmeyer, federmda@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us