

Dear Future Orchestra Students and Families,

I am so excited that you are interested in starting orchestra! If we haven't met, I am Mrs. Scotton and I am the orchestra director at Crossler Middle School, and I am responsible for teaching students at Schirle, Sumpter, Liberty, and Salem-Heights Elementary Schools.

Here is a little bit about me:

- I grew up in Salem and went to these Salem-Keizer schools: Chapman Hill Elementary, Walker Middle School, and West Salem High School
- I started playing viola in the 4th grade
- I have performed with professional orchestras
- I love teaching orchestra!

The purpose of this email is to reach out and provide some basic information that you will need to know before we start Orchestra. Please read the following information and let me know if you have any questions:

SIGN UP FOR ORCHESTRA HERE: <https://spragueareastrings.weebly.com/>

Orchestra Parent Night – Sept. 16, 6:30pm at Sprague HS

Please join us to get more information about joining orchestra. We will have a live performance, instrument demonstrations, and students sign up for orchestra, get fitted for their instrument and even rent their instrument from one of the local music shops – both will be there!

Orchestra Class Schedule

- Orchestra will begin on **Tuesday, September 27th at Crossler MS**
- All beginning orchestra students will meet on **Tuesday and Thursday**, every week for 45 minutes from 3:15pm to 4pm.
 - A bus will pick you up at the end of your school day and bring you to Crossler Middle School. Attendance will be taken before students board the bus and then taken again once they arrive at Crossler Middle School.
 - A snack will be provided before students are transported to Crossler Middle School.
 - Students will be able to ride the middle school bus home, walk, be dropped off back at their school for after school programs, or you may pick up your student directly from Crossler Middle School.
- Each school will have one extra orchestra class with me during their school day at their home school starting the week of **October 4**. See the schedule below:

School	Day of Week	Time	Location
Schirle	Monday	11:45-12:15pm	Music Room
Sumpter	Tuesday	10:30-11am	Portable
Liberty	Thursday	11:40-12:10pm	Music Room
Salem Heights	Friday	11-11:30am	Salem Heights

Instrument Fittings and Rentals

Students may get fitted for their instrument during our Orchestra Parent Night on Sept. 16 at Sprague HS Pantheon at 6:30pm. If that time does not work for you, our wonderful local music shops in Salem will be complete the instrument fitting for our students. You may visit either **Willamette Valley Music Company or Uptown Music** to be fitted for your instrument. You may also rent from the stores too! They have made it easy for you to do a lot of the work online. Students also have the option to rent an instrument from Crossler MS (please email me if you would like to do this). While at the music store, please also purchase Essential Elements Book 1 (interactive version).

Students have the option to rent the following instruments of their choice:

- Violin – please get an Everest shoulder rest
- Viola – please get an Everest shoulder rest
- Cello

***Students wanting to play bass should **start on cello** and then transition to the bass in 5th grade.*

Getting Ready for Beginning Orchestra Checklist

- Sign up for orchestra
- Get fitted for your instrument
- Rent your instrument (please keep it in the case until class)
- Purchase Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 (interactive version for your instrument)

Please email me if you would like to rent an instrument from Crossler, borrow a music stand, or Essential Elements book.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about me, the class schedule, or the program. I am excited to make music with you!

Sincerely,

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