

Dear 5th Grade Students and Families,

You are invited to join the 6th grade orchestra program at Forestview Middle School next fall! In our orchestra program, students can choose between violin, viola, cello, or bass. There is no screening process in orchestra; rather, I want you to play the instrument you like the best! The school provides string basses. You can rent the other three instruments through one of the music stores in town. I strongly recommend renting an instrument over purchasing one at first. **Please ask me for help if you have questions about this process.** I can recommend a good store or website so you can be confident you're getting a high-quality instrument. You will also need Book 1 of the Suzuki Method for your instrument, found at our local music stores.

In our district, orchestra class is individualized, meaning that each student progresses at his/her own pace. You do not have to worry about keeping up with the rest of the class or waiting for the rest of the class to catch up with you. No previous musical experience is necessary to play in the orchestra. Most beginning orchestra students "start from scratch."

If you are interested in joining orchestra, you have two options:

1. Register online at **brainerdmusic.org** on the homepage.
2. Fill out and return the form at the bottom of this page.

I will contact you if you indicated you need help choosing an instrument. Otherwise, Orchestra class will start the second week of school in September so please have your instrument and book ready by that time.

If you are eager to get a jump-start on your instrument, talk to me about summer lessons. Please call or email with questions at any time. I look forward to meeting you!

Leslie Zander, Forestview Middle School Orchestras

School phone: 454-6079 (7:30 am – 3:30 pm)

Email: leslie.zander@isd181.org

Student name: _____

Parent name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

____ I know what instrument I would like to play. (Circle your choice.)

Violin Viola Cello Bass

____ I need help deciding what instrument to play. (Ms. Zander will call or email you to set up a time.)

Orchestra – Ms. Zander