



Welcome to Orchestra at Barker Road!

2020-2021

Mrs. Lewandowski (6th & 8th) and Miss Plato (7th)
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PHILOSOPHY

Congratulations! You and your child have made one of the most rewarding decisions by joining the performing music program at BRMS. The Pittsford Music Department develops students who are confident performers, imaginative and critical thinkers, capable of interpreting and communicating the aesthetic qualities of music and are knowledgeable patrons of music. Students become empowered to bring the intrinsic values of music into their adult lives.

All students have the opportunity to experience musical performances through large ensemble rehearsals and small group instruction. We offer band, orchestra, and chorus as part of the scheduled school day. Courses are scheduled so that a student may participate in one or two performance ensembles.

DAILY REHEARSALS

Orchestra rehearses daily as part of the curricular school day. This is in addition to a weekly scheduled lesson. Students participating in music ensembles will attend rehearsal every day.

LESSONS

Lessons are taught in small groups each week, for one period. Many lessons will be conducted through Zoom this year. Zoom links have been provided to students and will be the same link every week. Some 6th grade lessons are also able to be taught in person during the student's study hall or ensemble time.

For lessons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday, your child's lesson will always be on the same day of the week and same time. Wednesday lessons will rotate through multiple periods on a weekly basis. Lesson schedules have been posted on orchestra Teams pages and shared with teachers at Barker Road.

Lessons are graded classes and are scheduled in Infinite Campus. Small group lessons allow for individual student help as well as learning specific instrument techniques and complexities. Consistent lesson attendance is essential for students to make progress on their instruments—therefore students are expected to attend all lessons. Occasionally, special circumstances may arise in which a student may be excused from their lesson for that week, such as a school absence or class activity in which communication between the lesson teacher and the classroom teacher must occur.

It is each student's responsibility to know when the lesson is, inform the classroom teacher, arrange to make up any class work that is missed, and get new assignments. The classroom teachers are helpful and flexible in providing opportunities for students to attend lessons and to keep up with class work.

PERFORMANCES

Performance is an exciting and integral component of learning an instrument and being in an ensemble. Each student is a valuable member of the ensemble, and performance gives them the opportunity to showcase their work. We are working on music to record and present through a virtual platform.

SUPPLIES AND BOOKS

ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE THEIR INSTRUMENT CASE LABELED WITH THEIR NAME.

Most students will continue using the Essential Elements for Strings series (Book 1 & Book 2). We will also provide additional method books and solos as needed. Orchestra students need the following materials: shoulder rest (violin & viola), music stand, rosin, dust cloth, [tuner or tuner app](#), rock stop (cello & bass), and an extra set of strings.

HOME PRACTICE

Because learning an instrument is performance-based, consistent home practice is necessary to maintain and improve skills and concepts taught in lessons and ensembles. Students will be given a practice record to be completed throughout the semester. This will help students keep track of their practicing, see areas of strength, and set goals for improvement. Weekly practice assignments may include review material, scales, etudes, method book material, solos, and ensemble music. There is always something to practice and refine! Students should think of practicing as their “homework” for their ensemble. Scheduling a time to practice during the day is important for consistency and growth.

INSTRUMENTS

All violinists, violists need to bring their instrument every day. They will leave their instrument in their homeroom teacher’s classroom. The school will also provide each cellist and bassist an instrument to use during the school day—transporting an instrument back and forth to school is not necessary. Families are responsible for renting a cello or bass for home use.



We're looking forward to an exciting year of making music together!