

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a row of violins in an orchestra. The violins are made of polished wood and are arranged in a diagonal line from the bottom left towards the top right. The background is a brick wall. Overlaid on the image is the text 'WELCOME TO BEGINNER ORCHESTRA' in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline. Below this, in smaller white letters with a blue outline, is 'CREEKSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL'. At the bottom right, also in white letters with a blue outline, is '2025-26'.

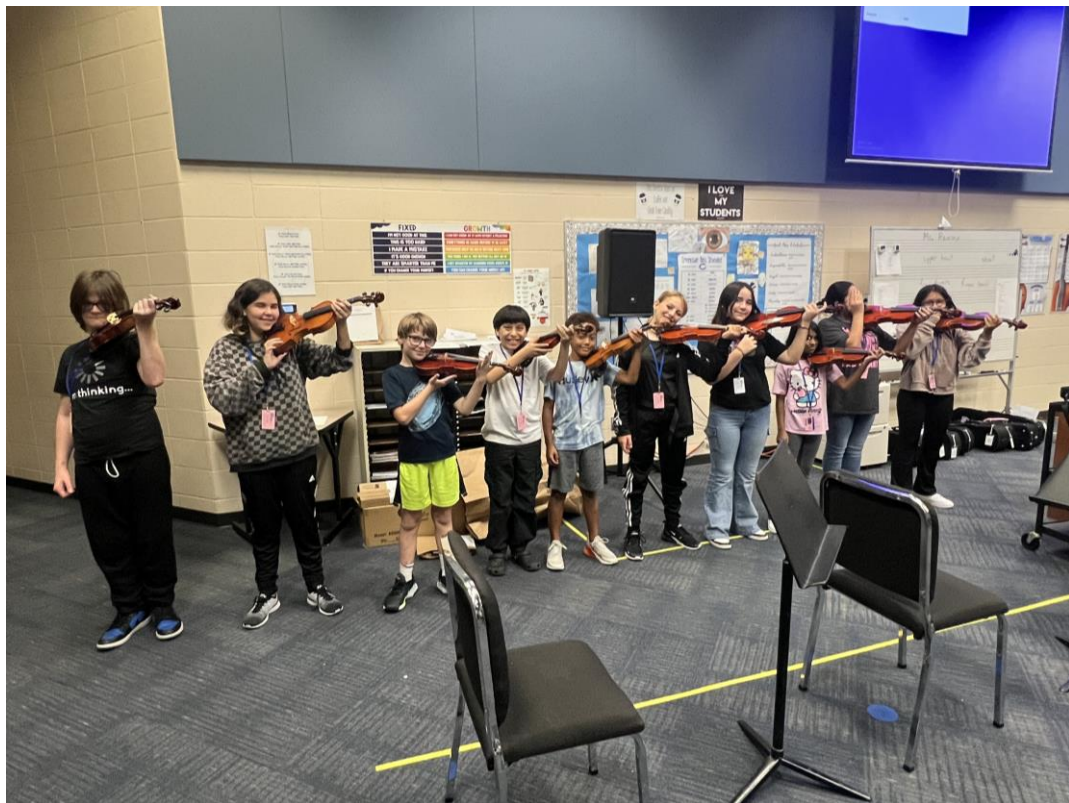
WELCOME TO BEGINNER ORCHESTRA

CREEKSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

2025-26

CIS ORCHESTRA HANDBOOK





WHAT YOU ARE JOINING

- **COMPETITIVE AND GROWING PROGRAM**
- **CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE**
- **COMMUNITY**

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

CANVAS

EMAIL – UPDATE ON SKYWARD

PARENT SQUARED

HANDBOOK





LIAM RAMSEY-WHITE (MR. RAMSEY)

- **VIETNAM – COLORADO – INDIANA - TEXAS**
- **MUSIC EDUCATION AND COMPOSITION AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY
JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC**
- **PLAYED VIOLIN FOR 24 YEARS**
- **6TH YEAR AS ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR AT CREEKSIDE**
- **PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN**
 - **CONCERTMASTER OF CLEAR LAKE SYMPHONY**
 - **PRINCIPLE 2ND OF PASADENA PHIL**
 - **MEMBER OF THE CLEAR LAKE CHAMBER PLAYERS**
 - **MEMBER OF THE CALBA QUARTET**
- **PROFESSIONAL COMPOSER**
- **VIDEO GAMES AND RAMEN ENTHUSIAST**

HOW TO GET AN INSTRUMENT/SIZE UP/UPGRADE



Rent

Lisle Violins



Buy

***Don't buy unless you
talk to mr. Ramsey***





INSTRUMENT INFO

- **STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR INSTRUMENTS**
- **INSTRUMENT CARE GUIDE**
- **STUDENTS SHOULD REPORT ANY REPAIR NEEDS TO MR. RAMSEY**
- **STUDENTS KEEP THEIR INSTRUMENTS IN A CUBBY DURING THE DAY AND TAKE THEM HOME EVERY NIGHT**

COURSES

BEGINNING VIOLIN/VIOLA

BEGINNING CELLO/BASS

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



UNIFORMS

- **CIS ORCHESTRA T-SHIRTS – BOUGHT ONLINE**
- **BEGINNERS – ORCHESTRA T-SHIRT, BEST BLUE JEANS, CLOSED-TOED SHOES**





HOW TO SUCCEED IN ORCHESTRA

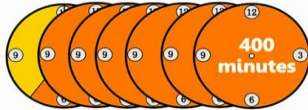
- **ONLY 2 THINGS YOU HAVE TO HAVE:**
 - **A WILLINGNESS TO IMPROVE YOUR MUSICAL SKILLS EACH DAY**
 - **A WORK ETHIC THAT WILL IMPROVE YOURSELF AND THE ENTIRE ORCHESTRA**
- **BASICALLY YOU MUST PRACTICE, DO YOUR PERSONAL BEST, AND COME PREPARING KNOWING THINGS TO CLASS EVERYDAY**

DAILY ORCHESTRA HOMEWORK - PRACTICE



End – 2:04

WHY YOUR CHILD CAN'T SKIP MUSIC PRACTICE TONIGHT

STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2
PRACTICES 20 MINUTES A NIGHT 5 NIGHTS A WEEK	PRACTICES 4 MINUTES A NIGHT OR NOT AT ALL
	
IN ONE WEEK	
100 MINUTES OF PRACTICE	20 MINUTES OF PRACTICE
	
IN ONE MONTH	
400 MINUTES OF PRACTICE	80 MINUTES OF PRACTICE
	
WHICH STUDENT DO YOU EXPECT WILL PLAY BETTER? WOULD YOU EXPECT TO KNOW MORE? ENJOY PLAYING THEIR INSTRUMENT MORE? EXPECT TO BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN MUSIC? © <i>Crescendo</i> music education .com.au	

PRACTICE REQUIREMENT

- **ALL CIS ORCHESTRA STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PRACTICE 5 DAYS A WEEK**
- **PRACTICE TIME WILL INCREASE AS MORE MUSIC IS ADDED AND DIFFICULTY IS INCREASED**
- **MINIMUM TIMES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR (MORE IS ALWAYS WELCOME!!!)**
 - **BEGINNERS: 10**
 - **SY: 20**
 - **CH: 25**
- **REMEMBER – ORCHESTRA IS A SKILLS CLASS AND YOU CAN ONLY SUCCEED BY DOING**





ATTENDANCE POLICY

- ORCHESTRA MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL SCHEDULED REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES
- AN ABSENCE WILL BE EXCUSED UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:
 - ILLNESS OR FAMILY EMERGENCY WITH COMMUNICATION IN A TIMELY MANNER (NO MORE THAN 48 HOURS AFTER).
 - A CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO CREEKSIDE SPONSORED ACTIVITIES OF THE SAME LEVEL (EX: FINALS GAME VS. CONCERT)
 - FOR CONFLICTS BETWEEN CREEKSIDE SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AND OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT MR. RAMSEY WELL IN ADVANCE TO FIGURE OUT A PLAN OF ACTION.
- AN EXCUSED ABSENCE WILL REQUIRE PARENTS TO EMAIL MR. RAMSEY AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE THE ABSENCE OR, IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, WITHIN 48 HOURS FOLLOWING THE EVENT.
- AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN A 0 IN THE GRADE BOOK.



MAJOR GRADES

- **PLAYING QUIZ EVERY 2 WEEKS**
 - **MATERIAL ANNOUNCED ON SUNDAYS ON CANVAS**
 - **4 OR 5 PLAYING TESTS**
 - **USUALLY THE THURSDAY BEFORE A CONCERT**
- **STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHEDULING A TIME TO MAKE UP A QUIZ/TEST**
- **ALL PERFORMANCES AND CONCERTS ARE 100 MAJOR GRADE POINTS**
 - **STUDENTS THAT MISS A PERFORMANCE WILL BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENT DUE ONE WEEK AFTER THE PERFORMANCE**
 - **EXCUSED = ASSIGNMENT CAN EARN UP TO 100 POINTS**
 - **UNEXCUSED = ASSIGNMENT CAN EARN UP TO 50 POINTS**
- **OTHER MAJOR GRADES - SOLO FESTIVAL, CHAMBER MUSIC UNIT, END OF THE YEAR AUDITIONS**



ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

- **MUST MAINTAIN AT LEAST A 70% IN ALL CLASSES TO BE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE**
- **INELIGIBLE STUDENTS CAN NOT ATTEND FIELD TRIPS, SOCIALS, OR PARTICIPATE IN HONORS EVENTS**

PRIVATE LESSONS

- **FOR ANY STUDENT THAT WANTS TO IMPROVE ON THEIR INSTRUMENT**
- **STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED A PRIVATE INSTRUCTOR OR CAN REQUEST ONE**
- **PRIVATE LESSONS OCCUR ONCE A WEEK FOR 30 MINUTES AND COST \$30 PER LESSON**
- **LOCATION AND TIMES MAY VARY**



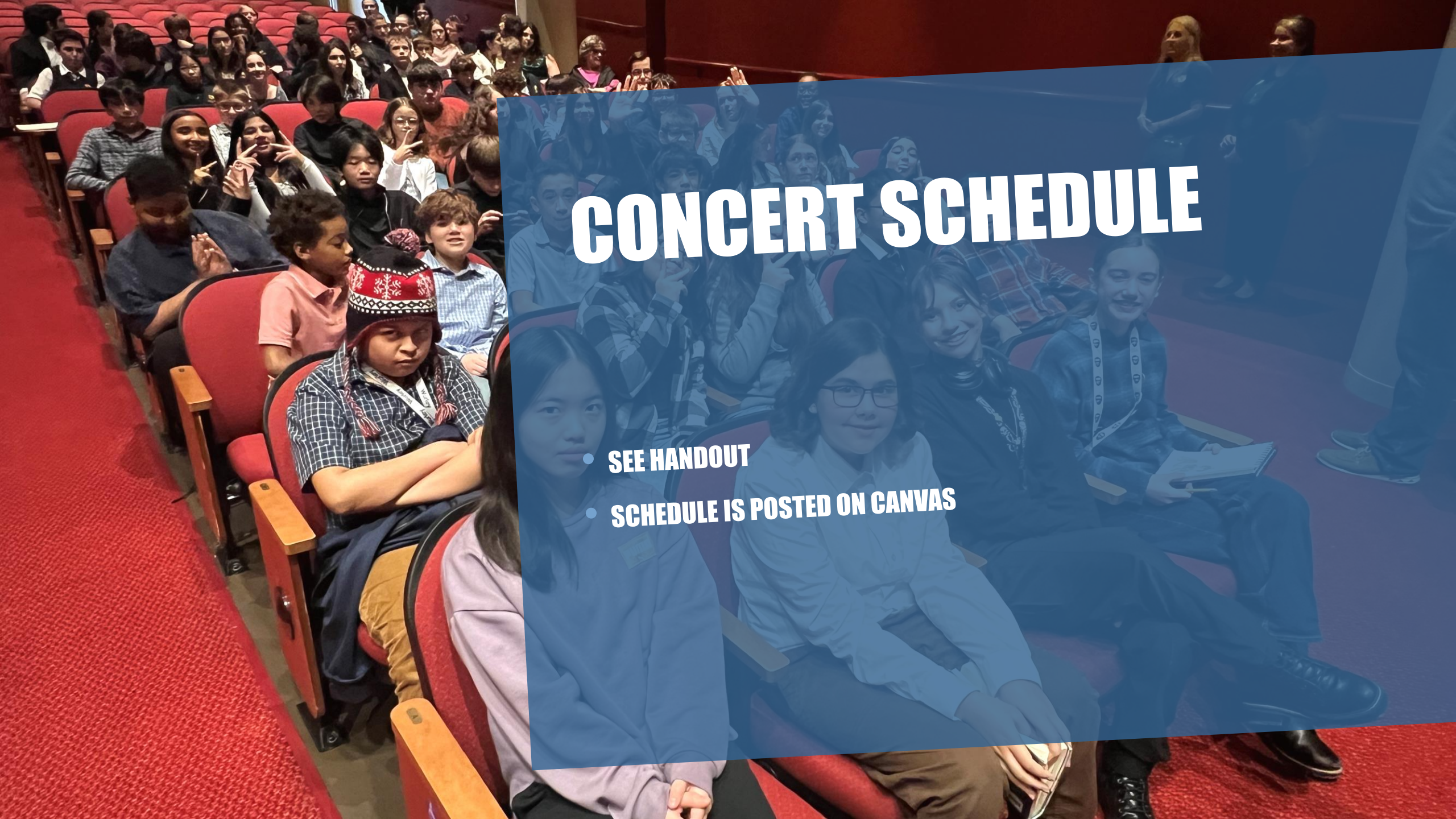
LUKE YEAGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- **OPEN TO BEGINNERS FOR 2ND SEMESTER STARTING IN JANUARY**
- **PAYS HALF THE COST OF 5 MONTHS OF PRIVATE LESSONS – APPROXIMATELY \$300**
- **THIS IS A MERIT SCHOLARSHIP, AND ANYONE ALREADY TAKING LESSONS SHOULD APPLY**
- **TO APPLY:**
 - **ONLINE APPLICATION**
 - **LAST YEAR'S FINAL GRADES**
 - **REQUIRED ONE PAGE ESSAY**
 - **1 LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM A TEACHER**
 - **ALL MATERIALS DUE IN NOVEMBER**
- **BEGINNERS CAN APPLY STARTING DECEMBER FOR A 5 MONTH SCHOLARSHIP**



LUKE YEAGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- SCHOLARSHIP IS MADE POSSIBLE DUE TO A GENEROUS DONATION BY THE YEAGER FAMILY AND ADDITIONAL DONORS.
- WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO KEEP THIS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDED FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
- CASH OR CHECKS (MAKE CHECKS OUT TO CIS ORCHESTRA BOOSTER CLUB)
- PUT ON CHECK/ENVELOPE THAT IT IS FOR THE LUKE YEAGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



CONCERT SCHEDULE

- SEE HANDOUT
- SCHEDULE IS POSTED ON CANVAS

MAJOR ORCHESTRA EVENTS

**4 ORCHESTRA CONCERTS (FALL, WINTER,
FEBRUARY, FINAL)**

CIS ORCHESTRA SOLO FESTIVAL

BEGINNERFEST

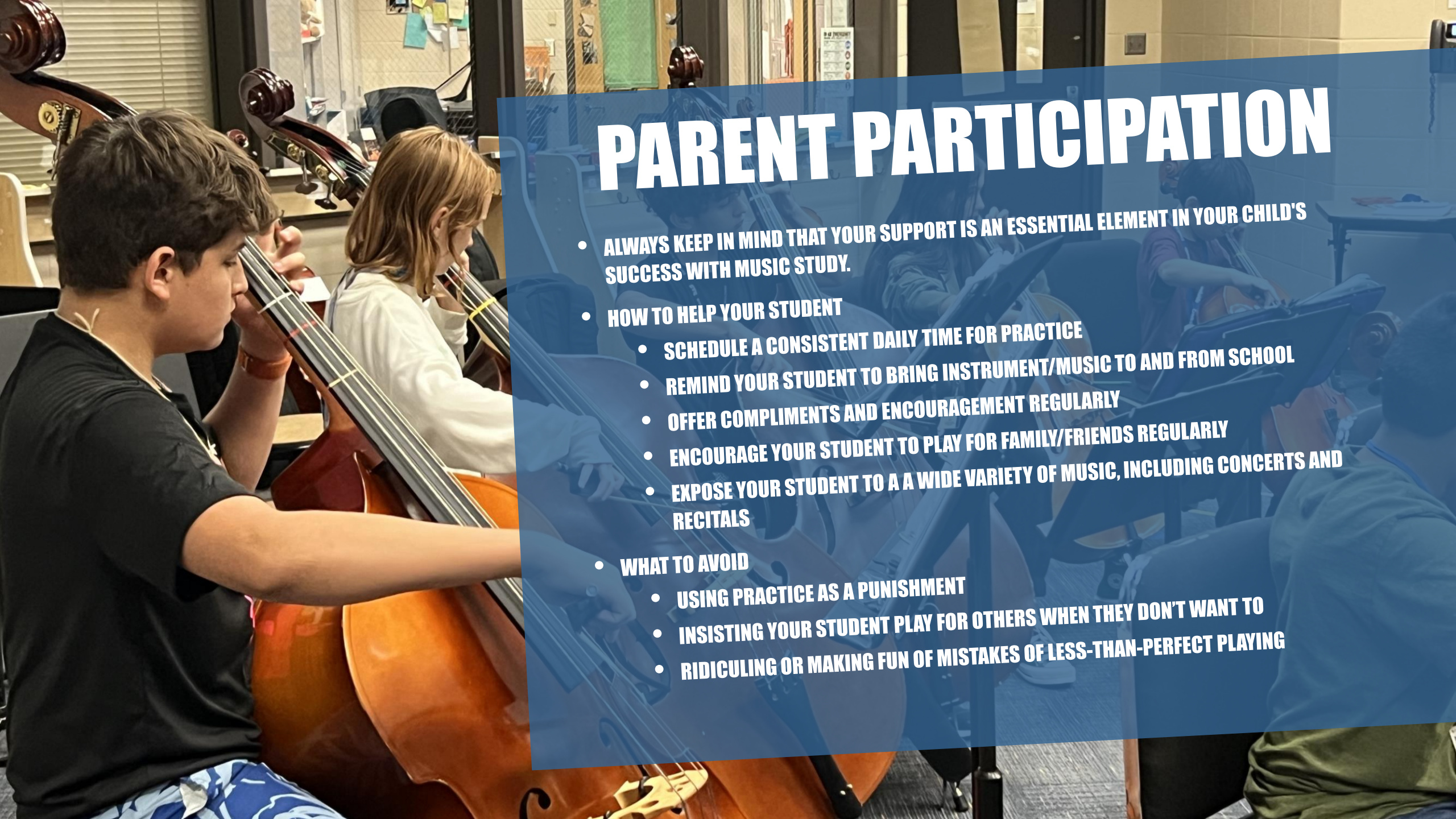
SPRING AUDITIONS/FINAL



EXTRA REHEARSALS

- **SOME BEGINNER AFTER SCHOOL
REHEARSALS DURING 2ND SEMESTER**





PARENT PARTICIPATION

- ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THAT YOUR SUPPORT IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS WITH MUSIC STUDY.
- HOW TO HELP YOUR STUDENT
 - SCHEDULE A CONSISTENT DAILY TIME FOR PRACTICE
 - REMIND YOUR STUDENT TO BRING INSTRUMENT/MUSIC TO AND FROM SCHOOL
 - OFFER COMPLIMENTS AND ENCOURAGEMENT REGULARLY
 - ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENT TO PLAY FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS REGULARLY
 - EXPOSE YOUR STUDENT TO A WIDE VARIETY OF MUSIC, INCLUDING CONCERTS AND RECITALS
- WHAT TO AVOID
 - USING PRACTICE AS A PUNISHMENT
 - INSISTING YOUR STUDENT PLAY FOR OTHERS WHEN THEY DON'T WANT TO
 - RIDICULING OR MAKING FUN OF MISTAKES OF LESS-THAN-PERFECT PLAYING

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

- **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**
- **CONCERTS, SOCIALS, TRIPS**
- **ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE CLEARED
THE CCISD VOLUNTEER DATABASE**
- [HTTPS://WWW.CCISD.NET/VOLUNTEER-
R-MENTOR](https://www.ccisd.net/volunteer-mentor)



BOOSTER CLUB

- **ORGANIZE AND FACILITATE SOCIALS, FUNDRAISERS, PERFORMANCES, GUEST ARTISTS, AND TRIPS**
- **MAKES THESE EVENTS AFFORDABLE TO ELIMINATE FINANCIAL BARRIERS.**
- **2025-26 BOOSTER CLUB OFFICERS**
 - **PRESIDENT – NICOL RODRIGUEZ**
 - **VICE PRESIDENT – REBECCA VALDEZ**
 - **SECRETARY – KATY BISHOP**
 - **TREASURER – DANIEL RODRIGUEZ**
 - **GENERAL OFFICE – MICHAEL HOBLEY**
 - **FUNDRAISING GOAL - \$5000**



CREEKSIDE ORCHESTRA BOOSTER CLUB

- ☆ Funding opportunities beyond what the school budget provides, such as special events, trips, equipment, and hospitality.
- ☆ Organizing fundraisers and coordinating community support.
- ☆ Volunteering time and skills to make sure events run smoothly.
- ☆ Partnering with the orchestra director to ensure students have the resources and encouragement they need to succeed.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS



BRONZE

\$25

- Recognition in the season program



SILVER

\$50

- Recognition in the season program
- 2 Front-of-auditorium seats at each concert



GOLD

\$75

- Recognition in the season program
- 4 Front-of-auditorium seats at each concert



PLATINUM

\$100

- Recognition in the season program
- Unlimited front-of-auditorium seats at each concert



Pay with Square



Pay with PayPal



CREEKSIDE ORCHESTRA ONLINE STORE

- ☆ New online store coming soon!
- ☆ Buy Creekside Orchestra gear (t-shirts, hoodies, car decals, etc.) to help support your student AND the CIS Orchestra Booster Club.
- ☆ T-shirt designs are custom this year to feature your student's instrument.
- ☆ Merchandise will be available in youth and adult sizes.
- ☆ Orders will be shipped directly to you rather than to the school.



COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS

- ☆ A Community Sponsorship is a great way to both support the your student, the Creekside Orchestra, and promote your business at the same time.
- ☆ Ideal for small, family, and local businesses who want to make an impact in the community.
- ☆ Memberships start at \$150.

Pay with Square



MEMBERSHIP LEVELS



COMMUNITY SPONSOR

- Logo and recognition in the season program
- Shoutout from the stage at each concert
- **Unlimited front-of-auditorium seats** at each concert
- Featured on the upcoming orchestra website as a community sponsor



POPCORN FUNDRAISER

MAIN FUNDRAISER FOR THE YEAR

SEPTEMBER 9TH – 23RD

**STUDENTS WILL CREATE A CONTACTS LIST AND
CALL THEM ON THE 9TH**

**PARENTS CAN ALSO HELP BY ASKING THEIR
FRIENDS, FAMILY, CO-WORKERS, ETC.**

LAST YEAR WE RAISED \$9199, LETS REACH 10K!

(COMPANY TAKES A CUT)



REMINDERS

- **WEEKLY WEDNESDAY ORCHESTRA VIDEO DUE**
- **ALL ORCHESTRA FORMS DUE**



ORCHESTRA PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 7, 6-8PM @ LYNN GRIPON COUNTRYSIDE PARK

