

Summit Hill School District 161

String Orchestra

Handbook

2023 - 2024



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the String Orchestra program at Summit Hill School District 161! Orchestra is one of the most rewarding and exciting opportunities your student can take advantage of! Music education provides students with a wealth of benefits. In addition to obtaining the musical skills needed to perform, a child learns skills that can be used throughout their life. Teamwork, dedication, creativity, self-discipline, and responsibility prepare a child for a successful future in any chosen profession. Our orchestra program allows each student to develop all these traits as well as experience the beauty, self-expression, and joy of making music! The following pages of this handbook include all the information you need for your student to have a successful year in our orchestra. Please do not hesitate to contact me throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katie Goddard
String Orchestras Director
cgoddard@summithill.org
815-469-4330 (SHJH)
815-469-0564 (HW)

String Orchestra Program Philosophy

The philosophy of the string orchestra program is to develop the whole child through instrumental performance education.

Benefits of learning a musical instrument include:

- The ability to read music
- Self-expression
- Creativity
- Concentration
- Problem-solving
- Goal-setting
- Memory skills
- Teamwork
- Poise
- Social skills
- Self-confidence and esteem
- Physical coordination
- Community
- The ability to accept criticism

Family also benefits from musical involvement, including:

- Musical event attendance
- Family music-making
- Performing for, and with, family and friends
- A sense of accomplishment and pride for the entire family

District 161 String Orchestras

Beginning String Orchestra

Members of the Beginning String Orchestra have little or no string instrument playing experience. Upon joining, students have the choice of learning violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Any students grades 5 - 6 are welcome to join Beginning Strings. Beginning Strings rehearsals are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:30 am. Rehearsals are held at Hilda Walker School. The Beginning String Orchestra performs 3 times each year. These performances are the Winter Concert, Winter Strings Extravaganza, and Spring Concert. Please see the calendar page for specific dates/locations/times. Junior high students **ARE** able to join orchestra as a beginner! Any 7th or 8th grade student wishing to join Strings as a beginner should see the director to coordinate instructional times at Summit Hill Jr. High. The annual district fee is \$20.00.

String Ensemble

String Ensemble is the title of our 5 - 8 grade string orchestra for musicians with 1 or more years of playing experience. String Ensemble rehearses on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 7:00 am at Summit Hill Jr. High. Fifth and sixth grade students are brought over to Hilda Walker by school bus at the end of rehearsal. The String Ensemble has 4 performances each year. These performances are the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Winter Strings Extravaganza, and the Spring Concert. Please see the calendar page for specific dates/locations/times. The annual district fee is \$20.00.

Small Group Lessons

All 5-8 string orchestra members will receive one small group lesson each week with the director. Small group lessons focus on individual advancement of string instrument skills. The curriculum is tailored to each student's needs, with appropriate curricular level goals set for the end of each school year. Students will receive progress reports each trimester detailing playing skills/musical goal progress.

Additional Performance Opportunities

I.L.M.E.A.

The District 161 Orchestras are members of the Illinois Music Educators Association (I.L.M.E.A.), District 1. This enables our students to participate in the annual I.L.M.E.A. District Festival. Our advanced students may audition for a seat within the festival, which will be comprised of the strongest students from about seventy area school districts. Auditions are held in late September with a one-day festival in November.

I.G.S.M.A.

The District 161 Orchestras are members of the Illinois Grade School Music Association (I.G.S.M.A.), District VI. This entitles our students to participate in Solo & Ensemble Contest each year. This Contest is optional and held in February. Students are encouraged to prepare a solo or an ensemble (duet/trio), which is then performed in front of a judge for a rating. Details regarding Solo & Ensemble are communicated in December.

Instruments

For your convenience, District 161 utilizes Quinlan and Fabish Music Co. for rentals.

Quinlan and Fabish Music Co.

www.qandf.com

6827 High Grove Boulevard

Burr Ridge, Il 60527

(630) 654-4111

A representative from Quinlan and Fabish visits the school(s) weekly (or as needed) to pick up and drop off instruments/supplies. Students are not required to use Quinlan and Fabish. However, an instrument of good quality will allow for students to achieve their best sound. Please be sure that your student's instrument is from a reputable dealer.

Uniforms

Beginning String Orchestra Uniform

- White dress shirt, black dress pants/skirt; black dress socks/shoes.
Provided by student.

String Ensemble Uniform

All members of the String Ensemble will be assigned a uniform. The uniform is on loan for the year; distributed in the fall and collected in the spring.

Uniform Option #1: Full-length black concert dress

- Student will need to provide black dress shoes.

Uniform Option #2: Tuxedo Pants, Tuxedo Jacket, Green bow tie and cummerbund

- Student will need to purchase a white tuxedo shirt. This will be ordered through the music department in the fall. The same tuxedo shirt is used at the high school.
- Student will need to provide all black dress shoes and black socks.

Students will be fitted and assigned their uniforms in the fall. All uniform pieces will be collected in the spring (except the tuxedo shirts).

A cleaning fee will be paid upon fitting/pick-up of the uniform.

- Uniforms should not be altered. If dresses need to be hemmed, please do NOT cut the material.
- In the case of missing or damaged uniform pieces, it is the responsibility of the student to pay for the replacement costs.
- Tuxedo (coat & trousers) \$100.25 ➤ Bow Ties \$3.25 ➤ Satin Cummerbunds \$8.50 ➤ Garment Bag \$6.00 ➤ Concert Dress \$70.00 All costs are subject to change based on supplier costs.

Policies

- All students are expected to attend all rehearsals, weekly small group lessons, and performances.
- Unavoidable rehearsal/performance conflicts should be communicated to the director as soon as possible.
- Students will be responsible for missed assignments from all missed classes due to lessons.
- Students using a school instrument will be requested to pay a maintenance fee and to sign a contract. Abusive or neglectful damage must be repaired at the student's expense.
- Students are not to use another's instrument or music without their permission. This includes school instruments.
- Students are to come prepared to all rehearsals with their instruments, books, music, and a pencil.

Conduct and Behavior

A sense of pride in representing Summit Hill District 161 should always be exhibited as a member of our school orchestras. All school rules and district policies will apply to rehearsals, performances, and out of school trips.

Calendar

Please mark your family calendar with the following concert performance dates. All concerts begin at 7:00 pm.

- **Fall Concert** (String Ensemble only) Thursday, October 12, 2023 @ SHJH (with HW/SH bands)
- **Winter Concert** (Beginning Strings & String Ensemble) Thursday, December 7, 2023 @ SHJH
- **Winter Strings Extravaganza** (Beginning Strings & String Ensemble) Monday, February 12, 2024 @ LW East (with LW Youth Strings, Frankfort 157C Strings, and LW East Orchestra)
- **Spring Concert** (Beginning Strings and String Ensemble) Tuesday, May 7, 2024 @ SHJH

Additional Dates

- ILMEA Auditions – Virtual auditions will be due end of September
- ILMEA Festival Saturday, November 4, 2023 @ TBA
- IGSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest Saturday, February 17, 2024 @ TBA