

2008-2009 RRPS Elementary ORCHESTRA Program

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Fifth grade students enrolled in Rio Rancho Public Schools will have the opportunity to learn a string orchestra instrument this school year. The program will start the week of September 8th. During the school year, students will meet during the school day, available at select elementary locations, and before or after school at one of four elementary locations in the district (listed below). You select the before or after school location that best suits your needs. Instruments taught will be the violin, viola, and cello.

Fees

The cost for this program is \$80 per school year, which covers materials and the Hummingbird Music Camp. Payment is due in our office no later than September 25th. **DO NOT GIVE THE FEE AND REGISTRATION FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OR TO THE MUSIC TEACHER. IT MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED TO THE DISTRICT FINE ARTS OFFICE**, address: 1600 40th Street; Rio Rancho NM 87144. If you need to make payment arrangements, contact Aminda Bowen at 994-2811 ext: 512.

Class Description

This beginner orchestra class is open to any student regardless of musical experience. Students will learn to play melodies in unison and in simple harmony. Important skills learned during this first year include self-discipline, appropriate posture, beautiful tone (sound quality), musical literacy (reading notes), and self-confidence. Students will play both by rote (by copying the teacher) and by reading music off of the page. Students are required to participate in at least four evening performances and will attend Hummingbird Music Camp during this school year.

Instruments

It is strongly suggested that you rent an instrument (rather than buy) during the first year. Instruments come in many sizes to accommodate the size of each child (how quickly they grow!). Smaller violins and violas rent as low as \$20 a month; this money can be put towards the purchase of the instrument. We highly recommend you consult with the orchestra teacher before renting or purchasing an instrument, as the durability of the instrument is very important. It is also recommended that you be wary of internet and pawn shop purchases. Quality student instruments typically start at \$500 for violins/violas and \$900 for cellos. Many internet sites and businesses are selling instruments in the \$100 range. These instruments may be very poorly constructed and generally do not work properly. Be sure the seller allows you to try an instrument out without the obligation to buy. This gives you the opportunity to get the instrument looked over by a teacher and at least one other qualified string specialist before making a final decision.

Rental programs in the area are:

Robertson and Sons Violin Shop
3201 Carlisle Blvd. NE
Albuquerque NM
889-2999
www.robertsonviolins.com

Baum's Music
3301 Southern Blvd., Suite 403
Rio Rancho NM
994-1108

Additional Sources:

Shar Products Company
2465 S. Industrial
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
800-248-7427
www.sharmusic.com

Southwest Strings
1721 S. Cherrybell Strav.
Tucson, AZ 85713
800-528-3430
www.swstrings.com

NOTE: For a minimal fee, there are a limited number of instruments available for rent from the RRPS District Fine Arts Office. If you are unable to rent, purchase, or borrow an instrument elsewhere, contact Aminda Bowen at the District Fine Arts office, 994-2811 ext. 512. **An appointment, with a completed, signed contract, is required to get a rental instrument.**

Accessories

All students, regardless of whether they rent, borrow, or own an instrument, need the following accessories daily: extra set of strings, rosin, shoulder rest (violins and violas), an endpin stopper (cello and bass), a soft cloth and a *clearly labeled luggage tag* for their case. Students must also invest in a folding music stand (approximately \$15) for home practice.

Orchestra – Before or After School Times, Days and Locations:

Puesta del Sol Elementary
Portable 501, Parent Room
Monday and Thursday: 8:00-8:50 AM
Ernest Stapleton Elementary
Room 209, Music Room
Tuesday and Friday: 4:15-5:15 PM

Vista Grande Elementary
Room 180, Music Room
Monday and Thursday: 8:00-8:50 AM
Colinas del Norte Elementary
CDNE Library
Tuesday and Friday: 2:00-3:00 PM

Orchestra Directors:

Karen Ginther, Orchestra Director, ERMS
Teaches at PDSE and ESE locations
892-6630 ext: 346
kginther@erms.rrps.k12.nm.us

Christina Hernandez, Orchestra Director, MVMS
Teaches at VGE and CDNE locations
867-0711 ext: 342
chernandez@mvms.rrps.k12.nm.us