**IMPORTANT ORCHESTRA INFORMATION 2022-2023**

**Fulton, Galveston, Conley, Sanborn**

**Welcome to Orchestra!**

My name is Mrs. Sutter (Lim) and I am looking forward to being your Orchestra teacher this year. It should be a fun year of learning and exploration. All 5th & 6th grade students who are interested in seeing what instrumental music is all about have the opportunity to participate and continue in orchestra or band. In accordance with the Arizona State Standards and CUSD Standards, 5th Grade Orchestra is a Level I beginning orchestra (students do not need music-reading or playing experience). However, 6th Grade Orchestra is a Level II orchestra (NOT a beginning orchestra). If your child is a 6th grader who wants to start learning an instrument, please be sure to have your child speak with me so we can figure out the best way to meet your desires and needs.

**Instrument and Materials**

Please be aware that orchestra requires a **full-year commitment**, and will require **practice time (homework) outside of class**. Orchestra is very fun and rewarding, and I hope that your child finds enjoyment through making music this year! **In order to participate in orchestra, your child will need to have an instrument and instrument accessories at the latest** **by Wednesday, August 3rd.** (All 6th Graders will begin playing on Wednesday, **July 27th** ) Students without an instrument August 3rd will be enrolled in General Music for the year.

**Renting an instrument from the District**

Most families rent instruments from a local music store. Students who choose larger instruments, or people with financial difficulties, will have the opportunity to apply for a CUSD Instrument Rental. A paper or an online form will be given to apply to qualify for a district instrument. Apart from the large instruments (cellos and basses), the district maintains a limited supply for student rental. If you are approved for a district instrument, there is a user fee of $60 to help off-set maintenance costs and you will also still need to purchase the necessary Orchestra supplies (supplies list on the back). Please review the list and make sure that all materials are brought to class by August 3rd.

**Renting an instrument from a local music store (RECOMMENDED)**

I highly recommended that you contact several music stores and ask about their rental fees and options. Most music stores offer insurance on instruments. This can be good in the case an instrument is left at a bus stop, on a bus, left on the school playground, etc. You may also want to check into a rent-to-own program which can be beneficial if your child continues orchestra through junior high/high school so that they can get an instrument of their own. If you are planning to purchase an instrument on the internet or warehouse store, I suggest calling local music stores to make sure they can repair that brand of instrument. Purchasing an instrument from the internet or through a discount store is inviting because prices are so reasonable. The reason you are being asked to be very careful about these kinds of purchases is that often the instruments are of very poor quality and if broken, cannot be repaired. Additionally, many of these instruments will not tune properly and your child ends up becoming very frustrated during the year because the instrument does not work properly. Ask the music store technician to tune the instrument to make sure it will hold a pitch. A list of music stores will be included.

**Orchestra students will have homework**

This is a required part of the class and reflects their progress and grade in Orchestra. It is best to encourage your child to do this just as you require your child to do their homework in other subject areas. Practicing an instrument at home can even be a good study break between other homework. I recommend 2.5 hours per week of practicing time at home (ex. 30 minutes per day for 5 days = 2.5 hours).

**Evening Concert Performances**

Last, but not least, you and your child need to make a **one-year commitment to the Orchestra program, including 2 potential evening concerts**. Parents, please plan to attend each concert as your child’s participation is part of their grade and a vital part to the whole group. Concerts are a great way for the students to demonstrate their skills as they improve, and concerts are FUN! We will always find something exciting to play!

I would love to hear from you, especially if you have any questions or concerns. Email is the best way to reach me (please indicate in the email which school your child attends) as I travel to four schools each day. Additionally, all Orchestra information should be on our school’s website very soon (under my teacher page). This will be a great resource for Orchestra information and downloadable forms.

Thank you and I look forward to this new school year.

Mrs. Sutter (Lim)

Email: Lim.Dora@cusd80.com (Absolute BEST way to reach me and get a fast response.)

Also look for my e-mail under the teacher section of the school website as my name/e-mail will be changing soon.

 Fulton Elementary Orchestra (morning)

 Conley Elementary Orchestra (morning)

 Galveston Elementary Orchestra (afternoon)

 Sanborn Elementary Orchestra (afternoon)