

## DeColores Montessori Jr. High Farm School Orchestra Overview

**Course Overview:** All students in the Jr. High Farm School program are required to participate in the orchestra class. Students may choose to play a violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students in the class will continue to learn technique for their instrument. Students will learn individual parts of their orchestra music and work on combining parts to create a piece of music. Theory, music history, ear training, and teamwork will also be addressed during the course of the year.

**Where to Rent an Instrument:** We are currently renting instruments from Baroque Violin Shop. They provide quality rental instruments/accessories and rental credit for the purchase of an instrument in the future. The Baroque Violin Shop is located in Cincinnati, Ohio and ships rental instruments across the country. Feel free to visit their website at [www.baroqueviolinshop.com](http://www.baroqueviolinshop.com) or call at (513) 541-2000. If you have any questions or concerns about your instrument, please feel free to call Brandy at 564-8718 (please leave a message) or call the farm school at 316-6104.

**Class Schedule:** Orchestra meets on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 A.M.-8:45 A.M. Students must bring their instruments and music all four days.

**Practice Sheets:** The only homework for orchestra is a weekly practice sheet. Students are required to practice a minimum of 90 minutes a week, finish any attached worksheets, and have the practice sheet signed by a parent. Practice sheets are always due Thursday morning. It is highly advised that students plan on practicing in three 30 minute sessions to benefit fully from practicing. Private lessons and practice club participation may be counted as practice time. Consistent practice creates success on the instrument and reinforces time management skills.

**Practice Club:** This year, Jr. High students have the opportunity to participate in a practice club. It will be held on Wednesdays from 7:10-7:40 and will cost \$50 a semester or \$100 for the year.

**Concerts:** All concerts are mandatory unless excuses are approved 4 weeks before the event (Special circumstances will be addressed on an individual basis). Remember we are part of a team and need each teammate!

- Fall Open House at the Farm (September 24, 2011)
- Holiday Community Tour (December 7, 2011)
- Solo and Ensemble Contest (Could be 3/24/12, 3/31/2012, or 4/14/2012)
- Carnival (May 4, 2012)

**Concert Attire:** For the Holiday Community Tour and Solo and Ensemble Contest students are expected to wear black pants/skirts and a white top. The goal is for our music to speak to the audience, not our clothes!

### **Grading System:**

40% Practice Sheets

- Due on Thursday with 90 minutes, a student comment, and a parent signature.
- Late practice sheets will lose 5% for each school day late, up to 50% of the overall grade.

- If a student is absent on a Thursday, they will be expected to bring the completed practice sheet the next day they attend school.
- 30% Concerts
- All concerts are mandatory
  - Students that must miss a concert must let Brandy know 4 weeks prior to the event so that other arrangements can be made. (Unforeseen events, such as severe sickness or a death in the family, will be excused). Students that are excused from a concert will be expected to complete other assignments to fulfill their obligations. Unexcused absences or not completing makeup work for excused absences will result in a zero for that concert grade.
- 20% Playing Tests
- Will be assigned with advanced notice throughout the school year
  - Includes scales, etudes, playing tests from music, and assigned solo music
  - Students will be graded on posture, playing position, and a demonstration of improvement in the music.
- 10% Theory
- Theory worksheets will be attached to practice sheets
  - Quizzes will be given over covered theory material with advanced notice
- 10% Leadership
- Leadership includes displaying attributes which benefit the entire orchestra.
  - Therefore, students are expected to be prepared with their instrument, music, and a pencil.
  - They are expected to be attentive and purposeful in their actions during class and to show respect and courtesy by talking or playing their instruments when directed by the conductor.
  - 10 leadership points are given daily. When everyone shows leadership, it creates an atmosphere of enjoyment and allows us to realize our personal and collective goals.