

? ? ? EJ Hayes Middle School Orchestra FAQ's ? ? ?

Where can I quickly find information about Orchestra? Our main form of communication is through email, and beginning with this year, through Canvas. If you are not receiving email messages from us, please verify that your email address is correct in Infinite Campus. We strongly encourage you to contact us through email during this time of NTI, as we will be mainly working from our homes, unable to receive phone messages. This will of course change once we are back to a traditional schedule. But in the meantime, the best form of communication with either Mrs. Francis or Mrs. Summers is through email and Canvas. Our email addresses are: Sara.Francis@fayette.kyschools.us & Laura.Summers@fayette.kyschools.us We are both happy to help with any and all issues - we want to hear from you, so don't hesitate to contact us!

You can also find information about orchestra at our class website: www.ejhayesorchestra.org

Is there a practice requirement outside of school? Yes! Students are expected to practice throughout the week. We will check in on everyone's progress through practice reflection and video assignments. Practicing individually, even when we are learning together in a traditional classroom, is vital to progressing on your instrument!

Can I rent an instrument from the school? A limited number of instruments are available to rent from the school. If there is a greater demand than supply for school-owned instruments, then instruments will be rented on a financial-need basis, and then on a first come-first served basis.

When are the Orchestra concerts and what do students wear for performances? In a traditional year, we typically have one evening concert per grading period, and a performance calendar is sent home during the first week of school. Concerts are required academic events for all students and concert participation is an expectation for participating in Orchestra class. The official attire for our performances will be black pants and white dress shirts for gentlemen and black pants or a long black skirt with a white blouse for ladies. Everyone should wear black shoes with dark socks (or dark hose or stockings for girls). All clothing must fall within the school dress code and look neat and professional. We will definitely give plenty of notice this year when concerts are able to happen once again!

Once we are back in school in a traditional manor, you might wonder...

Do I have to carry my instrument home every night? Violinists and violists are expected to take their instruments home often enough to fulfill the weekly practice requirement and have them back for class every day. Cellists and Bassists do not have to worry about carrying an instrument back and forth to school each day, especially since their instruments cannot be taken on the school bus. Instead, they will have a school instrument assigned to them to use in class. Cellists and bassists are responsible for having a "practice" instrument at home which will periodically need to be brought in for tuning and/or maintenance. They can rent this from school, as our supply allows.

Is there a place at school where I can store my instrument? Secure instrument and music storage is available in the music wing at Hayes. Students will drop their instruments off in the mornings when they are released to go to class and will pick them up during afternoon dismissal. Violin and viola students will have an assigned storage cubby.