

Westglades Middle School Orchestra and Choir Program

In sixth grade, you have an exciting opportunity awaiting you: **the chance to learn to make music, and the choice to make music with your mouth or with an instrument!**

Facts and Questions About Orchestra and Choir

- **Why should I join orchestra and/or choir?** Westglades orchestra and choir encourage a disciplined, highly challenging, co-curricular environment. The program at Westglades Middle affords your child the opportunity for an experience like no other middle school music program in the area. After the success of middle school orchestra and choir, students move on to be a part of the Orchestra or Choir program at Stoneman Douglas. After the program at Stoneman Douglas, many students go on to receive music scholarships, even if they aren't majoring in music in college. In the end, being a musician can result in your child being well-rounded enough to be successful in middle and high school, and can eventually result in a music scholarship.
- **You will have a chance to learn one of the following instruments in orchestra:** violin, viola, cello, or bass.
- **You will have a chance to join one of the largest organizations in the school.** Next year we will have over 100 students in the orchestra program and 100 in the choir program. You will not want to miss out!
- **If I choose orchestra, how do I pick an instrument?** We will help you. Once school begins and you are placed in orchestra, we will have a fitting day and will help you choose the instrument you will be most successful on!
- **Will there be after school rehearsals/events?** In the first year, there are no after school rehearsals. We perform 2 concerts per year: in December and May.
- **Orchestra and choir are both daily elective class that will meet for the entire year.** You are able to sign up for two elective classes, so **you do not have to miss out on anything in order to be in orchestra or choir.**
- **How do I join?** When you fill out your course card for Westglades Middle, be sure to put Orchestra and/or Choir as your first choice elective!
- **Do I need any experience?** NO! We teach you everything you need to know.
- **Do I need to buy an instrument if I'm joining orchestra?** Please wait until we try the instruments before obtaining an instrument.

- **What are the Brain Benefits of Music Education?** Research findings suggest, children who are in music programs see significant benefits in reading, math, and logical-sequential thinking. High school students who remain in a quality music program also **average higher scores on the SAT**. One report indicated 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math. **Music majors have the highest rate of acceptance to medical schools**. Annually, National Merit Scholars are involved in music programs more than any other single activity in school. *Other added benefits are a development of cooperation, self-expression, responsibility, discipline, patience, self-esteem, listening skills, and a potential lifelong enjoyment of music.*
- **Can I be in other clubs?** Yes, our orchestra and choir students are active in numerous clubs, music, and sport activities and still manage to participate in the program. Participation in other clubs and sports is highly encouraged.
- **What do I do if I am undecided? Sign up for orchestra or choir anyway!** This is your best chance to learn an instrument. If you are unsure, come try it. If you wait until later, you will be behind other students in the program that are your age.
- **Questions?** Email Ms. Todd with questions!

We're **so excited** about the opportunity to have you join our program!!

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