

ANY QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to contact our teachers at any time!

Band:

Kelly_Dimidik@ipsd.org

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Orchestra:

Lori_Lauff@ipsd.org

Stephanie_Lein@ipsd.org

You are also welcome to check out our websites to get an idea of what great things you can be a part of at Gregory Middle School and Neuqua Valley High School.

www.gregorybands.weebly.com

www.gregoryorchestra.weebly.com

www.neuquamusic.org

Music Lasts a Lifetime!

In May 2018, graduating seniors of the Neuqua Valley High School Music Department were provided an exit survey inquiring about their college and major choices as well as accepted scholarships. 120 students responded, revealing the following information:

College Choice

- 65 different universities, colleges, or organizations were represented by the survey responses.
- Nearly every Big Ten school was represented
- Other “selective” Institutions and organizations represented: United States Merchant Marine Academy, Princeton University, University of Chicago, New York University, Case Western Reserve

Choice of Major

- 60 different majors were represented by the survey responses.
- Most popular majors were; Engineering (16%) & Undecided (9%)
- 9% of the survey responders were planning to pursue a music related field as a major

Accepted Scholarships

- Total accepted in scholarship money from the survey responders: \$4.1M
- Average scholarship money accepted by responders was \$34,700
- 41% of the responders received scholarship rewards of \$20,000 or

6th Grade Band and Orchestra at Gregory



*We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act,
but a habit.*

-Aristotle

Band and Orchestra– What can I do between now and August?



We are so excited that your child has decided to play an instrument in the Band or Orchestra here at Gregory. In 6th grade, your child will receive two different types of instruction during their band or orchestra class time. Each day, students will have their normal band/orchestra class, but periodically, they will leave this larger class to attend a small group, instrument specific technique class.

In band/orchestra class we learn about:

- Things musicians do, like keeping the beat and moving together as a group.
- Music history, theory and cultural context
- Ensemble concepts such as balance, blend, listening and contrast.
- Combining concepts and execution of skills for concert music preparation.

In technique class we learn about:

- Individualized instruction on the skills and techniques specific to different instruments
- Instrument-specific elements of musicianship

How can I help my child succeed in band or orchestra?

Make music a part of your family's schedule!

Just as students achieve more success at homework by doing it at the same time daily, practice as part of a daily routine becomes familiar and comfortable. You will grow to enjoy their improving sounds as you are cleaning up from dinner or getting ready for your day. A commitment of 10-15 minutes will suffice in the beginning.

Encourage the sounds that you hear!

In the beginning, you may be surprised at the volume or quality of sound that you hear. Remember that these are necessary steps on the road to becoming a proficient musician, just as stumbles are important to learning how to walk. Encouraging your child and telling them when you recognize a song or hear improvement will go a long way!

Consider the benefits of private instruction!

Once students are off to a great start with our expert instrumental music staff, we welcome private instruction with a trained professional or guided practice teacher from Neuqua Valley. This will help them to get one-on-one help with the skills that they need, rather than a large or small group classroom. This is absolutely not a requirement, but it does help our students, especially those who are very curious and want to have an enriching experience from the beginning! Please hold off on these lessons until your child's instructor sends forth more information. We love to help form those habits of excellence up front!

Expose your child to great music around us!

We are fortunate to live in a community that is rich with a variety of music. Look for opportunities to share those different forms with your child, whether through church, community performing groups or in the city. There is a wealth of great music out there for the interested listener!

Cool Websites to explore:

Dallas Symphony Orchestra Kids - recordings of many different instruments (click under "Listen" tab).
<http://www.dsokids.com>

San Francisco Symphony Kids - some samples of orchestra sounds. Games too!
<http://www.sfskids.org>

The Broader Minded Movement - See the non-musical benefits your brain gets from being involved in music

<http://www.broaderminded.com/>

Online Note Trainer– start learning to read the notes on the music staff (click settings to choose your appropriate clef)

<http://classic.musictheory.net/82>

Live Performances in our area

You can hear many groups play throughout the year in our area. Check websites for performances at places like Grant Park and Ravinia.

Here are some in our own backyard:

Naperville Municipal Band

Concerts every Thursday at 7:30 pm throughout the summer at Central Park

Dupage Symphony Orchestra

Information about performances is available at www.dupagesymphony.org

Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra

Performances in Aurora

<http://www.foxvalleyorchestra.org/>