

Orffestra Parent Letter

09/26/14

Hello Orffestra Parents!

I'm so excited that your child has chosen to audition for the Orffestra! Below, you will hopefully find all the answers to the questions you may be asking about our new, exciting music ensemble at Luella Elementary. Please visit Mrs. Kenney's website on the Luella Elementary Webpage often to check for updates and important information. If you need any more information, have other questions, or would just like to touch base at any time, please email me at claire.kenney@henry.k12.ga.us or call my cell phone at (205) 568-4694.

What is an Orffestra?

An Orffestra is a fun, relaxed musical group made of percussion instruments including drums, xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels. Students will also be singing, moving, and using boom whackers in some of the performances.

What will my child be learning in the Orffestra?

Along with learning how to read music and play musical instruments, students will learn how to be respectful of others and their equipment. With hard work and a positive attitude, they will become self-motivated and self-disciplined through rehearsing and practicing for performances.

How does the Orffestra audition process work?

Each student will be given a music worksheet to complete for the audition as well as a small section of music to play for Mrs. Kenney on October 17th. Students will be split into small groups of 5 or 6 people and will be asked to play the audition music together. The students will learn the music at the informational meeting and will be given a chance to review before their group audition. Students will be judged on their attitude, ability to follow rules and expectations, and their ability to read music on a very basic level- most of the musical abilities will be learned throughout the year. Ideally, every student would make the Orffestra, but because of the number of instruments available, only a certain number of students will be asked to participate.

After the audition, how will I know if my child has made the Orffestra?

The Monday after the auditions (October 20th) the results will be posted near Mrs. Kenney's door and on her website through the Luella Elementary webpage.

Once my child has made it, what is the next step for him/her?

Once your child has made the ensemble, a few more pieces of information will come home with the student, including a permission slip and a t-shirt order form. Our first rehearsal will be on Friday, October 31st. We will work on our music reading skills and start learning fun pieces of music for the upcoming performances. Students will be required to attend all rehearsals and pay their dues by the November 14th rehearsal. They may also have one or two homework assignments to help them with their music-reading skills, and these assignments will be due by the next rehearsal.

What will my child need for every rehearsal?

All your child will need for each rehearsal is a pencil, the homework assignment if given, and a great positive attitude!

When do I need to pay the dues payment of \$12?

Students will need to bring either a check made out to “ LES ” or cash in an envelope with their name on it to Mrs. Kenney any time before or on November 14th.

What happens if my child misses a rehearsal?

Please do your best to not schedule doctor’s appointments or other conflicting events on rehearsal days. If your child misses a rehearsal, they will be asked to bring a valid excuse signed by the parent/guardian. If they miss more than two rehearsals, they will be asked to leave the ensemble. All students will be expected to be at every rehearsal since there are so few between each performance.

When does my child need to be picked up and what are the pick-up procedures?

Unless otherwise stated on the calendar, all students should be picked up within 15 minutes of the end of rehearsal. Most rehearsals end at 3:45, so students must be picked up by 4:00 pm. If a student is left after 4:00 pm more than once, they will be out of the ensemble. After the student has made the group, he/she will be given a pick-up tag with their name on it. You will need to drive up to the front of the school building with your tag to pick up your child.

What will students wear for performances?

Students will wear their Orffestra t-shirts and either jeans or khaki pants/shorts depending on the event. Notices will be sent home two weeks before each event and will also be updated on Mrs. Kenney’s website.

What if my child attends the afterschool program but still wants to be in the Orffestra?

Your child will be able to participate as long as they are either picked up or returned to the afterschool program 15 minutes after the rehearsal time on the calendar ends. If they are in the enrichment program or in SIEP, they will still be expected to be at rehearsals during the normal time: 2:25 to 3:45.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me anytime! I’m looking forward to this exciting new musical adventure, and I’m so glad your child wants to be a part of the fun!

Claire Kenney

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