



**Dear Parent or Guardian,**

Your child has attended a presentation demonstrating string instruments and inviting him or her to participate in the Ames Community School orchestra program.

We invite you to talk with your child about the presentation and to consider enrolling your child.

All students are capable of learning a string instrument, even with no prior musical training. A commitment to the program is sure to bring many rewards.

Please take some time to read through the brochure and discuss it with your child. If you would like to enroll your child in the Ames School Orchestra program, complete the form in the brochure and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

### The Orchestral String Instrument Family

#### Violin

The violin is the smallest. It plays the highest pitched notes and is sometimes called the soprano of the string family. The violin player holds the instrument with his or her chin.

#### Viola

The viola is larger than the violin, but like the violin is played while held under the chin. It is sometimes called the alto of the string family.

#### Cello

The cello is larger than a viola, and is sometimes called the tenor of the string family. A cello player sits and holds the instrument between his or her knees.

#### Bass

The bass is the largest of the string instruments and plays the lowest notes. A bass player holds the bass upright while sitting or standing.

**EDWARDS**

**FELLOWS**



AMES HIGH SCHOOL

AMES MIDDLE SCHOOL

**MEEKER**

**MITCHELL**

**SAWYER**

## Sign me up for orchestra!

School \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade & Section \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Instruments played and how many years \_\_\_\_\_

Private music teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument desired: \_\_\_\_\_Violin \_\_\_\_\_Viola \_\_\_\_\_Cello \_\_\_\_\_Bass

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Cut on the dashed line and return top portion to classroom teacher. Further information will follow after sign-up.

### Orchestra in the Ames Community Schools

The Ames Community School District has an active orchestra program from 4th to 12th grade. Instruction for beginners is offered for the first time in 4th grade. Beginners at later grade levels are welcome.

More advanced instruction for those who have begun private lessons before 4th grade is likewise available, and advanced students are encouraged to improve their musicianship and leadership skills in the school program.

The goal of the program is not to become a professional musician, though some students do, but to ensure students make good progress toward becoming well-rounded musicians who can play and appreciate music.

Students who participate in the program work on large and fine motor skills, listening skills, reading skills, coordination, cooperation, leadership, and group participation. They also develop friendships, perform, travel, and generally have fun!

### Ames School Orchestra Teachers

Elementaries: Helen Park  
Andrew Weihrauch  
Ames Middle School: Andrew Weihrauch  
Peggy Dieter  
Ames High School: Mary Kay Polashek

All the orchestra teachers have extensive experience in teaching and performing. They cooperate to develop and carry out the orchestra program. This form and other orchestra information can be found on the Ames High Orchestra web site:

<http://www.ames.k12.ia.us/AHS/Music/Orchestra/AHSOrchestra.html>

School	Lesson Day	Matinee Concert
Edwards	Monday	April 26, 2010
Sawyer	Tuesday	April 27, 2010
Meeker	Wednesday	April 28, 2010
Mitchell	Thursday	April 29, 2010
Fellows	Friday	April 30, 2010

### What's the commitment?

Elementary students meet once a week in small groups at their respective school for half hour lessons during the school day. Lessons begin the week of September 14, 2009.

Non-beginner orchestras meet at each school 7:45-8:25 once a week beginning the week of October 12.

### What about instruments?

Some cellos and basses are available for rent from the Ames school district.

Appropriately sized violins and violas can be rented from area music stores.

### Orchestra Parent Meetings

Sept 4, 2009 (Friday) • Nov 9 (Monday)  
• March 23 (Tuesday)

7:00 - 8:00 pm Meeker school auditorium

### Spring All Elementary Orchestra Concert

April 29 (Thursday) 7 p.m. Ames Middle School.  
Rehearsals Mondays April 19 & 26, 4:00-5:15 at Ames Middle School.